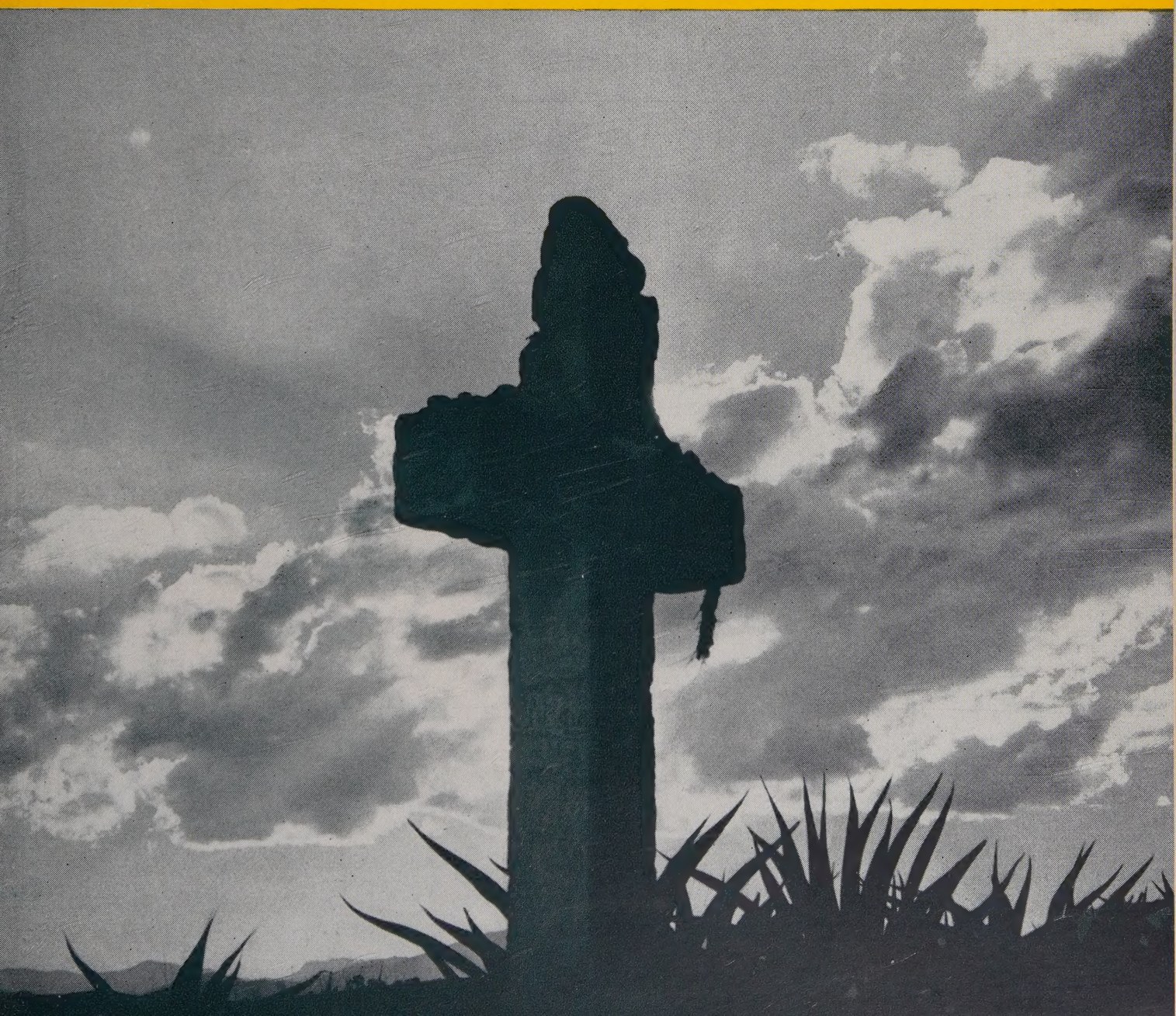
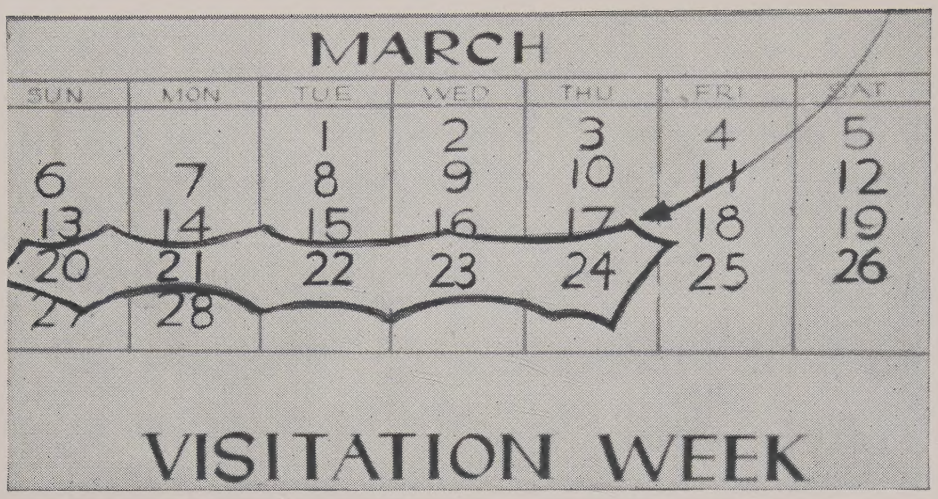
Shepherds

April, 1949





Put this week on your church calendar

Make a calendar like this for your church vestibule, like McKendree, Nashville, has done.

THE PASSION STORY —DAY BY DAY

by Howard W. Ellis

A devotional manual of pictures, scripture readings, and meditations based on the events of the last week in the life of our Lord and Savior. Printed in two colors.

The person or congregation who would reverently follow the Master's footsteps as He approaches the Cross will find inspiration here.

Single copies, 25¢
6 copies for $1.00
10 or more, 15¢ *each*

SHEPHERDS

April, 1949

Vol. 3—No. 7

George Hawkins Jones, *Editor*
D. E. Jackson, *Business Manager*

Published by TIDINGS
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 4, Tennessee

SHEPHERDS, a monthly journal of evangelism, is published monthly by TIDINGS, producer of quality literature on evangelism, the Church, and the Christian life, at low cost. It is dedicated to the winning of persons to Christ, by all means and methods, and to establishing them in their Christian lives. It concerns itself chiefly with the development of a well-rounded program of evangelism in the local church. SHEPHERDS is beamed to pastors and to evangelical laymen, especially to the all-important *Committee on Membership and Evangelism* in the local church. Each member of this committee should have this magazine. While the individual subscription price is $1.50 per year, a church may subscribe to it for the members of this committee at the rate of seven subscriptions for $10.00.

Single copies 15¢. Quantity orders of a single issue, as long as the supply lasts, 10¢ each.

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Printed in the U. S. A.

We make Easter
a thing of lilies
---indeed it does
spell life
and joy

But back of it was
a crown of thorns,
a cross,
and a
broken heart

_____	**The Passion Story—Day by Day**	25¢ each; 6 for $1.00; 10 or more, 15¢ each _____
_____	**THE WONDERFUL CHRIST,** new leaflet by Bishop J. C. Bromfield	$2.00 per 100 _____
_____	**The Angel and Mr. Oddsock,** new leaflet for every home	$2.00 per 100 _____
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_____	**New Life for Me,** by Albert E. Day	$1.00 per 100 _____
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Through Training Classes and Reading Develop Your Members

_____	**A Word to New Members,** by Wilbur E. Hammaker	10¢; 12 for $1.00 _____
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_____	**Certificate of Preparatory Membership** You will need only a few . . . for your Preparatory Members	2¢ each _____
_____	**The Protestant Primer,** by Clarence Seidenspinner A book that reading laymen want	25¢; 12 for $3.00 _____
_____	**THE BELIEFS OF A METHODIST CHRISTIAN,** by Clinton M. Cherry	96 pages—35¢ each; 10 or more, 30¢ each; 25 or more, 25¢ each _____

Order a large supply; they will sell themselves

VISITATION EVANGELISM WEEK---MARCH 20-25

Win "1 for 17" before Easter

AIR MAIL this order TODAY

if you need visitation materials

_____ **Prospect and Assignment Cards** — 50¢ per 100 _____
Build up prospect list and fill out these cards in advance. You have more prospects than you think. We suggest making duplicate prospect cards.

_____ **Record of Commitment Cards** (Check kind below)
You will need half as many commitment cards as prospects. Keep a supply to record public profession of faith also.

( ) With Methodist Membership Questions on back — 50¢ per 100 _____

( ) Without anything on back — 50¢ per 100 _____

_____ **Visitation Agreement Cards** — 50¢ per 100 _____
To enlist the workers and record their agreement to visit

_____ **Assignment and Report Envelopes** — 50¢ per 100 _____
Order an envelope for each team each night. Minimum, 50 for 25¢

_____ **GUIDANCE FOLDER FOR LAYMEN**, by Dawson C. Bryan (NEW) — 2¢ each _____
A folder of suggestions and instructions in visitation. One for each evangelistic visitor. Order extras. Keep a supply on hand. It is entitled, "Laymen Visit for Christ and His Church."

_____ **Preparation and Organization Folder** — 2¢ each _____
For pastor and key persons in preparing for visitation campaign

_____ **Assimilating New Members** — 2¢ each _____
A folder for pastors and key persons in making "spiritual guidance" visits to those who have been won by visitation workers

_____ **"A Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen,"** by Dawson C. Bryan — 50¢ each _____
A 96-page paper-bound book, available also from Publishing House

_____ **LAYMAN'S EVANGELISTIC PACKET** — $1.00 each _____
A packet of booklets and leaflets on evangelism and the Christian life, including the above 96-page book

RADIO

_____ **Five Holy Week Radio Scripts** (see page 23) — The Set, $2.50 _____

_____ **IF YOU HAVE A RADIO**, order a copy of "Radio for the Family" — 10¢ _____

_____ **Faith Is a Family Affair** (Family Week Card) — 60¢ per 100 _____

SHEPHERDS

_____ Subscriptions to SHEPHERDS Magazine $1.50 per year
7 subscriptions, $10.00. Attach names and addresses. Churches find it profitable to give subscriptions to the members of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ORDER _____

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

Please fill my order as checked.

( ) Payment enclosed

( ) Charge to treasurer

( ) Charge to my account

Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss NAME

ADDRESS

Church Treasurer

Address

Date _____ Order placed by _____

Money spent by a church for evangelistic literature is money wisely spent

WE MUST *Advance*

FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Developing the Spiritual Life

It is as essential to "keep" the new member as it is to "win" him. It is imperative that the new member be established in Christ and keep growing as a Christian. We must build him up in his personal life and devotional habits, and assimilate him in the life of the church until the church becomes a vital factor in his life.

IN EVERY CHURCH

A Training Class for Church Membership and the Christian Life

- For every preparatory member
- For every person received on profession of faith
- For every member not established in the Christian life and in the life of the local church

EVERY METHODIST A CHRISTIAN

- Trained in personal religious habits
- Grounded on basic Christian beliefs
- Given an understanding of The Methodist Church
- Proven loyal to local church in devotion, attendance, gifts, and service

EVERY MEMBER

- A trained member
- An intelligent member
- A praying member
- A witnessing member with life and lips
- A devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Exemplary in personal life as a true Christian
- Working at establishing the Kingdom of God in his community
- A Bible-reading member
- An attending member
- A contributing member

FROM NOW UNTIL EASTER

---The Church's Greatest Time for Evangelism---

March 21-24—Week of Visitation Evangelism

National Week of Visitation Evangelism to win at least 200,000 on confession of faith. Let your church win one for every seventeen active members it has.

Hold supper instruction conferences Monday through Thursday at 6:00 P.M., and visit "two by two" from 7:00 until 9:30 for Christ and His Church. Advance for Christ and His Church through Evangelism.

Sunday, March 27

This Sunday might be made Family Sunday during Lent. Have a great spiritual message that follows up the Week of Dedication and the Week of Visitation and prepares the way for Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, and Easter.

If Children's Membership Classes and Adult Membership Classes have not already begun, begin them on this day and during this week.

Monday, March 28

Use Monday night for another night of visitation evangelism by all visitors. Follow up those who were not at home last week, and prospects who were not visited.

March 28-April 2

Pastor continues his Membership Classes and his spiritual guidance visits upon persons who made commitments for Christ and His Church.

April 3—Passion Sunday

Have a great communion service, observing the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of His death and *passion*. The passion of Jesus was something more than what happened in Gethsemane's garden and on Calvary's cross. Study and present the passion of Jesus from the Mount of Transfiguration until He sets His face like a flint to go to Jerusalem, and goes.

The Tidings leaflet, "The Wonderful Christ" by Bishop J. C. Broomfield, would be an excellent one to give to every person at this service, and/or to mail or send into every home.

The Children's Training Classes in Church Membership and the Christian Life should be concluded sometime during this week.

Monday, April 4

Another Monday night of visitation evangelism. Visit until the last person has been challenged for Christ and His Church.

The pastor will have to prepare much this week for his spiritual enrichment service next week—Holy Week.

April 10—Palm Sunday

Let the whole service, including the sermon, revolve around children, the Church, and their consecration to Christ.

Baptize babies, present the parents with the required certificates of baptism (available from the Publishing House) and with the beautiful and meaningful leaflet, "Baptized Today," available from Tidings.

Baptize children who have not been previously baptized and are to be received into the church.

Receive children into church. The pastor is required to furnish every person uniting with the church, on profession of faith or from preparatory membership, a certificate of membership. (*Discipline,* 352.24). The Tidings "Methodist Membership Card" is the best available for this. We recommend that it be given to all who are already members of the church also.

Those who are received *into* preparatory membership (not *from*) should be given the Tidings "Certificate of Preparatory Membership" especially prepared for this.

April 10-15—Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday night could begin a series of five week-night services, conducted by the pastor, and built around the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Members appreciate such services and will attend and co-operate if something worth while is planned and it is well advertised and supported by the Official Board, the Woman's Society, the Youth Fellowship, and the church school teachers. Get the whole church behind it. Have the full choir present with special music and great congregational singing each night.

Of great help to this series could be Howard Ellis' new picture and scripture interpretation booklet, "The Passion Story—Day by Day." Order a supply for your church from Tidings at quantity price, and sell them at single copy price.

April 14—Maundy Thursday

Center the service this night about the scene in the upper room, the message of Jesus to His disciples, and the Lord's Supper. Close with consecration in a Communion Service held by candlelight.

April 15—Good Friday

Many churches hold a union three-hour service on this sacred day, from 12:00 until 3:00 P.M., during the three hours of darkness (Matt. 27:45). These services are usually broken up into seven sections of about 25 minutes each, each section having for its theme one of Jesus' words or sayings from the Cross. Each section usually contains a congregational hymn, a special number, a scripture reading, a prayer, and a meditation.

The evening service can be a great conclusion to the series of week-night services—with the Cross as a theme.

April 17—Easter

This is the "glad day of Christianity."

Many churches and communities have sunrise Easter services with excellent effect.

The morning church service oftentimes witnesses the greatest attendance of the year. Many churches have two services on Sunday mornings to good effect, and more could do so.

Receive the adults into the church, and the children if they were not received on Palm Sunday, of course, but fail not to sound the greatest message of heaven and earth: "Christ is risen; He is risen indeed."

"Christ the Lord is risen today. . . .
Love's redeeming work is done . . .
Made like Him, like Him we rise,
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies."
—*Charles Wesley*

200,000 PERSONS FOR CHRIST

Visitation Evangelism Week---March 20-24

GREATEST EVANGELISTIC OPPORTUNITY OF THE YEAR

by Dawson C. Bryan

At the very heart of the Pre-Easter season the Week of Visitation Evangelism, March 20-24, comes as the most opportune time to win Christian disciples. There is no period in the year when the attention of the entire Church is turned toward evangelism as in the days before Easter. It seems like the entire community regards the days approaching the death and resurrection of our Lord as the time when the appeal of Christ comes most pointedly to them.

The Week of Dedication

This year the Week of Dedication will be one of deep spiritual preparation. It will gird the Church for spiritual enterprises and Christian advance. It will be a time of prayer and of heart searching, and it will bring about a sense of responsibility for the unchurched and for those who are physically and spiritually in want. Not only will the congregation feel a great desire to assist materially in the alleviation of the world's distress, but it will also want to take the help available from Christ to people in sin and indifference.

The Week of Dedication will provide a wonderful opportunity for the deepening of the spiritual life of the Church and for the preparation of the Church in the spiritual adventure of winning people to Christ and church membership.

The Week of Visitation

Pastors who have kept in mind the National Week of Visitation Evangelism, and have made preparation in securing prospects and visitors, will be ready for a great ingathering. Every church, large or small, will win disciples in proportion to the preparation that has been made. Already the prospect list should be prepared and ready. By now pastors should have contacted the lay visitors who are to go out two by two from their churches across the nation during Visitation Week and into the homes of people who need Christ and His Church.

In case preparation has not yet been adequately made, there are still a few days in which a pastor and his assistants can get together the prospect list and can still enlist laymen to do the visiting.

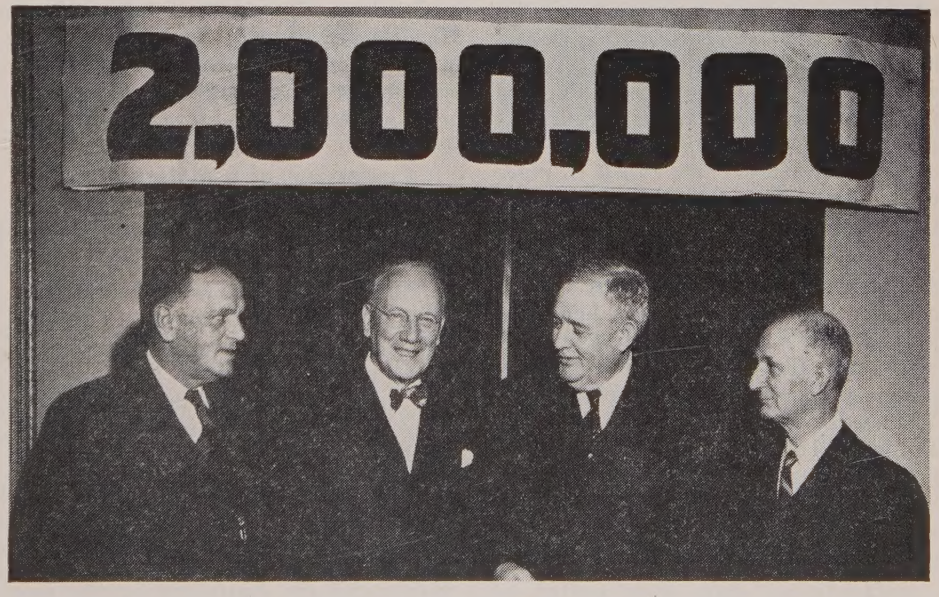
All together across America in Visitation Week it is possible to win 200,000 people on confession of faith and by vows. In addition, thousands can be led to transfer their memberships to the churches in the communities in which they are now living.

This is the opportunity for the Methodist churches of America to emphasize the power of our Lord and Saviour to lead people into abundant living and Christian service. It provides our laymen with the privilege of witnessing and sharing their Christian faith so that others also may be won to the Christian faith. The remaining few days before Visitation Week are available for the pastor to complete his preparations and to participate in the ingathering which will help him to meet his minimum responsibilities and his church to reach its minimum goals in winning persons by profession of faith in Christ. Visitation Week will help us to reach the people in our own communities and for whom Christ has made us responsible. Articles appeared in February and March issues of SHEPHERDS that should be helpful.

MATERIALS

Certain materials may still be ordered, if the orders are sent in by return mail for the use in the campaign. Such orders should be mailed to Tidings, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, at once. (AIR MAIL your order, and we will try to fill it the day it is received.)

It is recommended that all the laymen who are to participate be provided with *A Handbook of Evangelism for Laymen,* by Dawson C. Bryan (50¢) which may be secured either from The Methodist Publishing House or from Tidings, and Dawson Bryan's new "Guidance Folder for Laymen" (2¢ each) from Tidings. Prospect and Assignment Cards and Record of Decision Cards may also be secured at 50¢ per 100 (from Tidings).



2,000,000 this Quadrennium
200,000 during Visitation Week
"1 for 17" by Easter

"The Christ-centered approach is most convincing."

"During the Christ-Centered approach, there was reverent consideration and no criticism. But when my teammate visited about the church, the prospect criticised people in the church—no progress. Returned to the Christ-centered emphasis and secured the commitment."

"The Christ-centered approach broke down hostility. A wonderful experience."

"Wonderful experience! I'm better prepared to speak for Christ."

"Convinced Christ-centered approach is the most effective—the only way in fact. Discovered how well a layman can do this work."

"In many cases we are lagging behind. People are ready, waiting. And they have been waiting in the past."

"This school has made me realize that over half my pastoral visiting to date has been lost because I did not 'visit for a verdict.'"

"New vision! Will change my ministry. Realize a great uplift in my own experience."

In this quadrennium, The Methodist Church should use the experience it has already had of Visitation Evangelism and go from victory unto victory in winning even more of the unchurched to the Church and in bringing to Christ those who are "without hope and without God" in this world.

"Make the Visitation Christ-Centered"

---SOME CONFESSIONS AND TESTIMONIES---

Confessions of a Preacher

"I was sent to the Epworth Methodist Church and introduced to a layman who became my teammate. The first night we did some social calling. I told him I was from Florida, who my father was, the name of my boy, and the families we visited told us of their kinfolks, their work, the nature of the Atlanta attractions. We failed to place Christ first in our interviews. We came back to the church with a score of zero.

On the second, third, and fourth nights we visited and made it Christ-centered. We took off our hats and prayed before the door of every home we visited. Tuesday night we had six prospects and won six for Christ. Wednesday night we had six prospects and won all six for Christ. On Thursday night we were given five prospects and won four for Christ. Our visitation was Christ-centered and not church-centered. God gave the increase.

—*Henry A. Guy,* then pastor of Fruitland Park, Florida, concerning the Atlanta Visitation Campaign.

Confessions of a Young Man

"Sunday was the happiest day of my life," declared a young man after being received into The Methodist Church on Membership Sunday by confession of faith. "I don't know why I have delayed becoming a Christian; it's something I have wanted to do for a long time."

Confessions of a Mature Man

"I know it was hard for those two strange men to come to see me," declared a person who had been won to Christ by visitation evangelism. "They were so sincere and seemed to believe that I needed to know Christ as they had come to know Him. They did not talk to me about joining the church. They had come to ask me about giving my heart to Christ. I accepted their invitation. Preacher, I am glad you sent those men to my house; they led me to Christ." This testimony by a layman is typical of the testimony of many others who are impressed by the fact that other laymen came to visit them about Christ and to speak to them about their souls.

Thrill of a Lifetime

"Some said they couldn't do this type of work but didn't want to disappoint the pastor, so they made an attempt. One such man came running into the parsonage after his first visit with five signed decision cards, and said he had never had such a thrill before. Our men are on fire now and the whole Board is becoming a permanent committee on Visitation Evangelism."

—*Floyd E. George,* New York East Conference.

Will Change Our Church

The following was said by a man all aglow of his new experience of leading others to make a great decision for Christ: "Our church is going to be different. Our laymen have found out that they can do this kind of work. It will change the spirit of our church."

A Concluding Summary

"Those who have given Visitation Evangelism a chance realize that it is an instrument of God for the extension of His Kingdom."

A Recipe for Making New Members

By George C. Baker, Jr.

Laurel Heights, San Antonio, Texas

Harold C. Phillips

1. *Take a selected handful of good, well-rounded Christians.*
2. *Stir them well with some teachings of Jesus on the importance of witnessing and winning for the Kingdom.*
3. *Add some fresh prospects with complete information about each attached.*
4. *Mix them well on several nights—two Christians and a few prospects. Allow these to sit and visit in the name of Christ and his Church for an evening.*
5. *Bring these that are warmed to commitments together for further inspiration and instruction by the minister.*
6. *When the leaven has had time to work, place each in front of the altar of the Church and throw around them all the fervor of a wholehearted fellowship of Christians.*
7. *Never allow to stand in a cool, neglected place, but keep warm through public and private devotions.*
8. *Be careful to avoid staleness by keeping each one engaged in some suitable, challenging service in and through the Church.*

Note: This recipe will result in hundreds of thousands of new Christians in The Methodist Church. A dash of your own daring will improve the flavor.

Harold C. Phillips

SOURCES OF BUILDING YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. UNCHURCHED

47% of the population. About 99% of this group do not regularly attend church. 50% of unchurched families can be won during first visit if there are young children in the home, even though they have never attended the local church.

60% of people secured in Home Visitation Evangelism are unchurched adults. Many already know that they should become Christian and are waiting only to be asked.

2. CHURCH LETTER TRANSFERS

85% of active adults were members elsewhere before uniting with present church. (Larger per cent in cities, smaller in rural areas where people do not move so often).

Cities of over 50,000 population have as many residents who have memberships elsewhere as there are members in the city.

Securing church letters is conservation work that saves people who otherwise would be lost.

3. CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Educational Evangelism is the most efficient method for children. 80% will move before settling down in married life.

Boys and girls received into local church today will be men and women in churches elsewhere tomorrow.

Half of those who unite with church during youth are lost because they never move their letters.

EVANGELISM

THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE CHURCHES

by Stephen Neill

Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches

The ecumenical outlook is part of New Testament Christianity. It is patent on almost every page of the New Testament. This is both surprising and significant. That a small company of semi-literate Jews should have believed that, when their Master spoke of the Gospel of the kingdom being preached to all nations for a witness to them, He really meant what He said, and should have set themselves, quite unemotionally and without any heroics, to carry out His command, is evidence of the dynamic way that the Risen Lord had impressed His followers.

I can devote myself to the service of the World Council of Churches only on the understanding that its primary concern is just this, to get the Gospel of redemption through Jesus Christ, out into all the world, to see to it that this message is proclaimed literally to every human being now living in the world.

Convictions

This Gospel really is for all men, and it is the will of God that it should be universally proclaimed in this our generation.

1. All men need the Gospel, and there can be no substitute for it.

To have suffered the loss of all things and to have Christ is riches untold. To have all things in the world and to be without Christ is to be irreparably poor.

No man is truly a man until he knows God in Christ, and for any man to live and die without knowing Him is utter tragedy. The Gospel is literally a matter of life and death.

2. *There is no race or people in the world which has not the capacity to apprehend the Gospel.*

3. *There is no class which is inaccessible to the Gospel.*

Communism is one of our chief headaches in the Christian world. Do we take seriously the fact that communists also are brethren for whom Christ died, and that if the Gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation, then it is a power that can save the communist no less than anyone else? The Church has never made sure of its own future except by converting its enemies.

Challenge

Evangelism is the first item on the Christian program. As our World Council report claims, "It is indispensably necessary that every Christian, ordained or lay, should be an active witness for Christ."

1. *It is not permitted for any minister to say "I am not an evangelist."*

The minister is ordained for the purpose of bringing men and women to Christ; if he is not doing it, it is questionable whether he ought to be in the ministry at all. It may be that the greater part of a minister's time has to be spent as preacher, teacher or administrator. But for the sake of his success in any or all of these, it is essential that he should be also an evangelist. It is in evangelism that we are driven back on God, and brought back to the foot of the cross, the only place where we are safe.

2. *It is not open to any layman to say "I cannot be an evangelist."* If he is a Christian, he must be a witness. If he is not willing to be a witness, it is time that he gave up calling himself a Christian.

Most of the people we especially want to reach do not and will not come to church. They are almost beyond the reach of the minister and the professional Christian worker. The Christian layman has them round him all the time in the place where he works. On him is laid both the responsibility and the opportunity. Let not the laymen say that the opportunity never comes; to those who are alert and responsive it does come. Even those most alienated from the Church are on occasion ready to talk about religion; when they give the opening, the layman must be ready and equipped to step in. On many occasions, the stumbling words of the ordinary layman, spoken in utter sincerity, are far more effective than the most eloquent sermon.

3. *No Christian need feel that he is excluded from this task.*

Considerations Relative to the Work

1. *The spoken word must be supported by the evidence of life.*

Our spoken word often falls to the ground because non-Christians cannot see that our Christian faith has made any very great and visible difference to us. "If Christ has made so poor a job of saving you, why should we think that He would make a better job of saving us?"

We are called to serve God joyfully. It is not enough to serve Him, we must serve Him *joyfully.*

2. *Our word remains ineffective, unless there is a living fellowship into*

EVERY CHURCH

- Every church have active Committee on Membership and Evangelism
- Every church establish prospect rolls by surveys and other methods
- Every church have organized visitation evangelism campaigns
- Every church have special week of pulpit evangelism
- Every church have membership training classes for all age groups
- Every church train its church school teachers to be evangelists
- Every church maintain one or more active prayer groups
- Every church have Fellowship of Evangelism visiting the unchurched regularly
- Every church issue invitation to Christian discipleship at every service
- Every district organize new churches wherever needed

which we can invite those who are willing to put their trust in Christ. .

We boast of the Koinonia (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit. We are not always very successful in making it a reality. The power of communism, and indeed of all the totalitarian movements, is in the sense of fellowship that they provide. The little man, oppressed by the manifold frustrations and limitations of his narrow life, feels himself caught up into something great and splendid and heroic. Life takes on a new color, a new dimension.

One might think that to become a son of God, and a member of this glorious world-wide fellowship, the Church, would have just the same effect. Does it? Fellowship in Christ should touch deeper levels of human personality than any merely secular fellowship. Does it?

One of our important new insights is that the Church is part of the Gospel, and that we cannot preach Christ truly unless we preach also His body. But are we sufficiently concerned about the lack of fellowship in most of our Churches? Do we recognize this as one of the major hindrances to the conversion of the world?

3. *If the world is to listen to us, it must be convinced that we have the answers to some of the problems that it has failed to solve.*

The world is perplexed by the problem of social inequality. Is the Church a place where such distinctions are transcended?

The world is racked with the problem of race relationships. Have we solved them in the Church?

And what of wealth and poverty? Is it the case that Christian stewardship is so fully developed that no Christian is ever allowed to go in want?

Every failure of the Church, in its own inner life and in its outer relationships, is a hindrance, more or less deadly to the work of evangelism.

4. *Let it be clear at all times that what we preach is the Gospel and nothing else.*

We never shall preach the pure Gospel. We shall always put into it something of ourselves; it will always be an adulterated Gospel. But the more we are aware of this danger, the better we shall guard against it. For us, the Gospel has become inextricably entwined with ways of thought and living; it is almost impossible for us to disentangle it. To the outsider, it often looks as though we were commending the Gospel as a bulwark of our western civilization or as the foundation of a particular social order. Civilizations and social orders may be by-products of the Gospel, but they are not the Gospel itself.

This article is an abridgment of a great message issued in pamphlet form by the Federal Council of Churches.

Single copies, 10¢; 100 for $5.00. Order from 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10.

The Heart of It

St. Paul has expressed it once for all: *"We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."* This is the heart and center of it all, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the exaltation of Jesus Christ as God and Saviour. It sounds so simple. But when we are honest with ourselves, it is surprising how little of it we do.

Consider, brethren of the ministry, your own sermons. Of how many of them can we honestly say that the hearers would have learned unmistakably from them that God has appointed Jesus Christ as judge and Saviour of the world?

Of this I am very sure, that the world will not be saved, and the Church will not really live until we get back to the proclamation of the original Gospel, that this Jesus who was crucified is alive today and demands an answer from men. Our ancestors were quite clear that all eternity depended on the answer. The Gospel was literally a matter of life and death. But why should the world be concerned about all that, when we are so little concerned about it ourselves?

METHODISM'S SUPREME OPPORTUNITY

Evangelism is Methodism's supreme opportunity to help Christ save this broken world. The new life and the better way of Christ offers mankind the only sure hope of spiritual renewal.

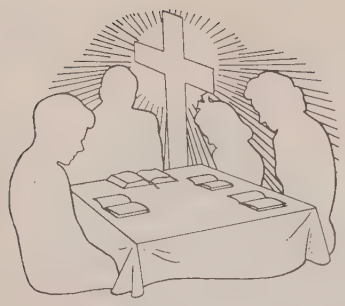
Evangelism has always been Methodism's first love. Methodism needs now to return to her first love, a passion for souls, if she would recover her lost radiance of a warmed heart.

To win adults, young people, and children to a firm faith in Jesus Christ and a loving loyalty to Him; to persuade them to believe in Him as their personal savior and guide; to hold Him before the world as the Redeemer of men from sin, greed, hatred, and war—this commission still holds for the people called Methodists.

This is evangelism: ONE person who knows Jesus Christ as his Redeemer, introduces him to others that He might become their Redeemer also, and so on—until there is a never-ending chain of witnessing for Him.

Every Christian must always be the dynamic center for this saving evangel. Each church, instead of being a hospital, a convalescent home, or an old people's rest, must become a training camp for the army of the Lord whose soldiers do battle against the hosts of sin. Surely no more important Christian task faces any lay member of the church.

To spiritually revitalize the church, to cause laymen to become Christ-winning witnesses, to bring new joy to church members in their religion, to help ministers recover the lost radiance of their ministry, to reclaim indifferent members, and to locate lost Methodists who are unaffiliated with the church in the community, to deepen the prayer life and loyalty of church members, to reopen closed churches and to establish new ones, to bring young people to the altar of dedication in life service—this is evangelism.



Family Devotions
AT THE BREAKFAST CLUB

by Warren E. Brown, Pastor
Marshall, Michigan

We are all convinced that the devotional life of Christian people must be deepened. This can be accomplished by a genuine spiritual revival in the Church, the cultivation of personal devotional media, and the maintenance of a family-centered devotional time.

We are social beings. We like to do things together. We believe that one way to add interest to the all-important "Family Altar" idea is to forge a link between our family altars, so that each unit feels the lift and encouragement of all the rest. It was to this end that we suggested several years ago that we form a "Breakfast Club" in our church.

This idea was called the "Breakfast Club" to emphasize the idea of devotions at the beginning of the day and to utilize the caption that has become popular over the radio. It is understood that some families are not together at the breakfast hour, but devotions in the morning are encouraged in every home possible.

We have issued little certificates, a copy of which is left in the home and a copy recorded in the church office to indicate how many home units participate in the club. The pastor offered his services to assist any home in establishing such a unit of the "Breakfast Club" by suggesting that he would go into any home for breakfast on invitation and would join the family in setting up such a worship center. He has had invitations on this offer.

We have tried to emphasize in these "Breakfast Club" family units the making of a prayer list. This means the actual marking down of the names of persons and interests for which special prayer is offered. This kind of emphasis serves to develop a feeling of personal interest and responsibility. Many homes will carry the same interests to God in prayer. Each unit feels, eventually, that it is not alone, but a part of the entire church congregation in the fellowship of prayer.

The Upper Room is the most valuable aid we have in these times of devotion. The readings here are often supplemented with special Bible readings and studies suggested from the pulpit and through various church bulletins and the monthly church paper.

Never before in our own church have there been so many persons, youth and adults, who can lead in public prayer. This, we feel, is partially the result of the BREAKFAST CLUB. To pray in private and in the confines of the home is to exercise spiritual muscles that will be needed if the Church ever carries the load for our needy world as it should. There is a naturalness that characterizes the prayer life of folks who will practice a method similar to this. Furthermore, this time accounts for the reading of the Bible in the home, beside which it might never be read by the group . . . and seldom by individuals.

It is suggested that the mid-week devotional hour be a weekly "refresher course" and a "warming up period" for all of the units of the Breakfast Club. Many references to the club in the church announcements will help further to keep the idea before the people.

It would be a tremendous thing if all in our great Methodist Church would unite as family units to do this thing. It is not so much how or when we do it . . . but to DO IT. However, if this little idea will help us to feel a "togetherness" in this effort and will spur us on to do this all important job, may God bless it.

Dear Friends:

A number of churches have organized "Companionship of the Breakfast Table." We invite you to be our companions at breakfast every morning, each in your own home. At that time we will use "The Upper Room" and the Bible, thus sharing the same scripture, the same prayers, and the same meditations and we will have real spiritual companionship with each other and with thousands of people scattered all over the world.

However, you and your family must decide on the best time for YOUR family devotions. We offer the above suggestion only because it has proven satisfactory in many homes.

Your use of the coin envelope will help to keep "The Upper Room" in all of our church homes.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. P. G. Lehman,
Spiritual Life Sec'y.,
W. S. C. S.

Donald W. Cryer,
Pastor.

ajs

(Westerville, Ohio)

How Christians Are Made

by Lowell Brestel Hazzard
Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University
Bloomington, Illinois

There is an idea abroad that education and evangelism are antagonistic. People who believe in the educational method often look down their noses at "evangelists." And people who are enthusiasts for evangelism consider the educationist "unsound." The antagonism extends deep into the life of the Church and often handicaps our work.

My contention is that, far from being antagonistic, education and evangelism are complementary—and complementary in the deepest sense. It is not enough to say that persons interested in evangelism and persons interested in education must work together. The truth is that every individual who is interested in making Christians must be educator and evangelist both and at the same time. We have a weak and ineffective approach to the persons we are trying to help, if either one is left out.

Let us look at the task of making Christians, to see how complementary education and evangelism are.

Four Steps

I. There are at least four steps in the making of a Christian.

1. The crucial one, and the one of which all of us think immediately, is *giving our lives to Jesus.* You cannot be a Christian apart from that.

This is what the apostle Paul discovered: personal commitment brings power. Paul had been an earnest and conscientious person, desperately trying to do right, but had found himself failing again and again. And then when he said to Jesus, "What wilt thou have me to do?" he found himself turned around (converted), given new life (regenerated), lifted to a new level (redeemed). It is the personal commitment to Jesus and that alone, that marks the transition from death to life. This is what it means to be converted.

Now we see this, but what we sometimes forget is that there are at least two steps before conversion, and one after, in making a Christian life.

2. Before we are ready to give our lives to Jesus, we must have *met* Him, and *become acquainted* with Him.

You do not give yourself to a person whom you do not know. And in the case of everyone who has ever become a Christian, a time of acquaintance preceded the actual giving of oneself. The disciples met Him and listened to Him talk by the lakeside before they responded to the invitation, "Follow me." Even after they went along with Him it was still some time before Peter's confession, "Thou art the Christ." Paul had contacts with Christians across the years before he had his vision on the Damascus road. And in the Gospel of John, after John has introduced the disciples to Jesus, Jesus' word to them is "Come and see." Acquaintance is necessary. There can be no commitment without it.

3. On the other hand, in the making of a Christian, commitment is followed by another stage as well. For, after we have given ourselves to Jesus, we must continue to live with Him, seeing even more clearly the implications of His life. Peter was committed when Jesus said to him, "Get thee behind me, Satan." He had given himself completely to Jesus, but had not yet apprehended completely what that meant. The Corinthians were committed when Paul wrote to them sage advice about conduct and worship and living together in the church. The early disciples were committed long before they apprehended the full import of the teachings of Jesus concerning universal brotherhood.

What is the relation

of evangelism

to education?

Here is the answer

We may give ourselves to Jesus but the results of that commitment are not automatic. We do not see all at once all that following Jesus means. The process of making Christians goes on after conversion as before. That is what Paul meant when he said, "If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit also let us walk."

Education and Evangelism

II. Now if that is clear—that process by which Christians are made—it ought to be clear how education and evangelism work together. Let us try a definition of each, so that we may be certain what we are talking about.

Evangelism is the process of winning commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the inviting, the exhorting, the pressing for a verdict.

But *education is the process of teaching.* It is the giving of information, the helping to think, the leading in becoming familiar with.

Now the process described inevitably has both aspects in it.

1. The initial invitation to people to come within earshot of the Christian gospel is *evangelism.* John the Baptist did it when he said, "Behold the Lamb of God." The evangelist does it from the pulpit. We do it in personal evangelism.

2. The acquainting people with Jesus is *education.* Jesus did it as He lived with His disciples. We do it with our children at home; we do it in Sunday school classes; the preacher does it in his sermon.

3. The pressing for a verdict, the seeking a decision, is *evangelism.* Paul did it with the Philippian jailer. We do it in church membership campaigns. It is the essence of "personal work."

4. The consideration of the meaning of Jesus for life is *education.* Paul did it in his letters to the churches. We should be doing it in adult classes, and church nights, and conferences and sermons, all the rest of people's Christian lives.

Do you see? In the process of making Christians, we shift from one technique to the other and back again, and that underlines the folly of dividing our work between educators and evangelists. We cannot say, "Here the educator is needed—and here the evangelist"—and pass the poor "prospect" back and forth

between us like a sack of flour. If we want to work efficiently, we cannot be constantly running back and forth, saying, "This is the function of the Board of Education—and this of the Board of Evangelism." The "prospect" is one, and the task is one; and we must all be both educators and evangelists, or the work is not well done.

Both . . . And

III. Let me put in a plea, then, with pastors that they do not neglect either aspect of their work.

It is not enough that we deal with those who come to us. We must go out seeking the lost, and that is evangelism. It is not enough that we give information about Jesus and the Christian life. We must press for a verdict, and that is evangelism.

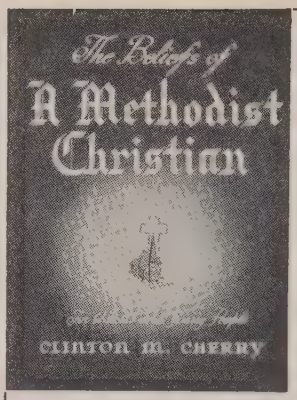
On the other hand, we must remember that if our evangelism is to be effective, there must be a great deal of teaching done. Where do our children and young people do a good share of the learning about Jesus which is necessary if they are to commit their lives to Him? They do this learning in Sunday-school classes, and in the Christian home.

Where must our young people and adults do a good share of the thinking about the implications of the teaching of Jesus, which is necessary for good Christian living? They do this in Youth Fellowship meetings, in adult Sunday school classes, in the young adult program.

Evangelism is necessary to get people, but the Sunday school, the youth program, the adult organizations, furnish us some of our best opportunities to build Christian lives. Therefore pastors dare not neglect the educational program of the church nor leave it in the hands of the inefficient. If we want to do our best job we must be as concerned about leadership training as we are about evangelism.

Christians are not made by preaching and visitation alone, nor are they made by teaching alone. They are made by every contact we have with those who need Christ. Therefore we must carry on a full-rounded ministry, and those who seek to be good shepherds must be both evangelistic educators, and educator-evangelists.

"Let us unite the two
so long divided,
knowledge and vital piety."
—John Wesley



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—*H. L. Hamilton*, Pastor, Morgan Methodist Church, Bessemer, Alabama.

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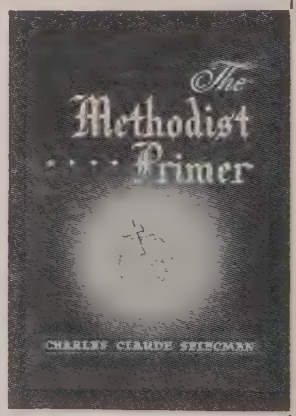

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How We Conducted the PERSONAL EVANGELISM CAMPAIGN In Our District

by H. G. Hurley, District Superintendent
East St. Louis, Southern Illinois Conference

Last year the East St. Louis District Conference voted to engage in a district-groupings for the most part. This district superintendent in charge. Faithful assistance was given by the district secretary of evangelism and the sub-district chairmen. Briefly, our plan was this:

1. We divided the district into two sections, following existing sub-district groupings for the most part. This district is composed of 63 pastoral charges, made up of 88 churches, ranging in membership all the way from 50 to 1,700. We have a large industrial area on one side of the district and a definitely rural area on the other.

We devoted the first two weeks in October to this program in the northern half of the district, with the southern half giving assistance. Then, the process was reversed in the southern section during the last two weeks of the month.

2. Sub-district evangelistic rallies were held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening of the first week in each half of the district—one in each sub-district group. The sub-district chairman presided over a well-planned service to which a general invitation had been extended in the various churches. The district secretary of evangelism briefly outlined the plan and objectives of the whole program. The superintendent delivered the sermon of the evening. We wanted all our people to know what was going on and to catch the spirit of this program as much as possible. On the whole the response was very fine.

3. Monday evening of the second week was devoted to instruction and discussion for pastors and selected visitors. Advance information and instruction had been given in the selection of visitors. There was almost a 100% attendance of this group, and interest was very evident.

4. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the second week were given to the actual visitation. Pastors had been given directions and helps in building their Prospect Lists several months in advance. In the section where the visitation was taking place, each pastor was in charge of the instruction and general direction of the program in his own church. A pastor from the other section, with those visitors from his church who could go, was assigned to assist each of the churches thus engaged.

5. Friday evening of the second week was used by each church in the way they deemed best. Some made this a period of fellowship, giving the prospective members an opportunity to become acquainted with those who were already members. Others held public services at which the prospective members were given opportunity to make a public commitment. A few pastors met with prospective members on this evening for instruction and counsel.

6. The first Sunday in November was Membership Sunday in the District, and the rest of the month was used in training and assimilating new members.

A Tremendous Gain

Two things stand out which lead us to believe the program was fairly successful.

1. An average of 22% of the contacts actually made resulted in membership in the church, either on confession of faith or by transfer. Others were definitely committed to join at later dates. We stressed the importance of earnest and sincere commitments, to avoid anything that tended to be superficial as far as possible. A number of pastors reported marked increases in attendance at the regular services of the church as a result of the visitation. Moreover, there came to us some thrilling stories of individual victories, all of which indicates that the actual results were very worth while.

2. Numbers of laymen were enlisted for the first time to do personal evangelism. Many of these went out with some degree of hesitancy and fear as to their own ability. But experience soon produced a deep interest and greater confidence. Numbers of pastors are now setting up a permanent organization for regular visitation work in their churches. We now have many valuable laymen who are ready, for the first time, to engage in this great phase of Kingdom work. Surely that is a tremendous gain.

As a result of this whole program, our District Conference voted at its recent session to again engage in another district-wide emphasis on visitation evangelism. Our plan will be somewhat different, but our people are vitally interested.

Other districts in our Conference are now planning district visitation crusades also. Evangelism is still alive and expanding rapidly in its scope and methods of procedure in Southern Illinois.

To Meet a Need

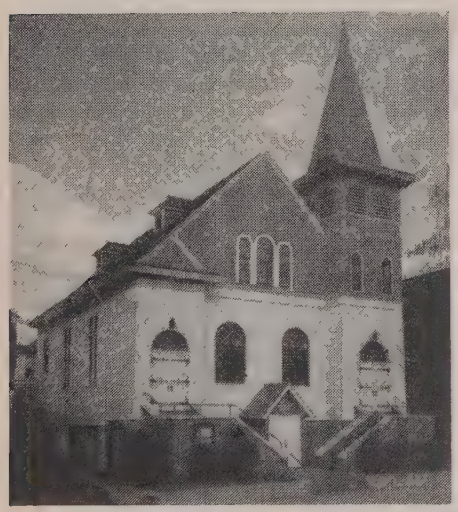
A Pastor, E. S. Richardson, of the California Conference gives us

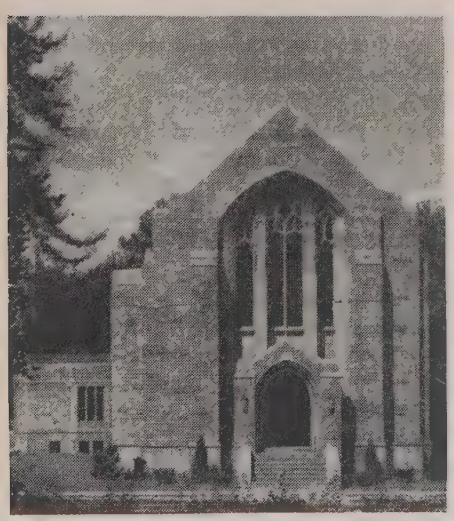
BAPTIZED TODAY

A word to parents
on infant baptism and parental responsibility
5c each; 12 for 50c; 25 for $1.00

Here is our most attractive leaflet. It is not large, and pastors will not need a large supply. Each pastor should keep a dozen on hand, however, and even more for the Easter season.
Every parent who has a child baptized should have this leaflet on the parents' vows in infant baptism and the promise to bring up the child as a Christian.

1908 Grand Avenue TIDINGS Nashville 4, Tenn.





CHURCHES CAN BE CHANGED by Pastors

Creating an Evangelistic Atmosphere

Churches can be changed. The test of a minister's value to his congregation lies largely in his ability to reconstruct the thinking and attitudes of that group. It may cost him much. If he is unwilling to pay a price, he forfeits his claim to leadership. A true minister reconstructs his church, when this is needed.

A great mid-west church, with a million dollar plant, in recent years has undergone a transformation. Every physical appurtenance of that building suggests social position, the temptation to contentment, self-satisfaction, apartness. But the pastor took fire and his flame was a pilot flame that set other fires burning in his congregation. Last season this changed church went out and in one week of Visitation Evangelism won over 150 people to Christ and the church. A fresh interpretation and application of what Paul had in mind when he said, "That I may save some," can save the modern church.

Put Evangelism First

2. How can a pastor take a church that has lost its vision and passion for souls and so reconstruct its life that there will be out-reach, up-reach, and down-reach for the souls of men until such an attitude becomes the normal expression of the church life?

(a) Begin by putting evangelism first in the church program. Evangelism will live in first place, or it will live only feebly, if at all.

Without the evangelistic emphasis in the pulpit, there will never be any in the pew. Unless pastors are willing to preach for souls, earnestly, passionately, winsomely, our laymen will never experience the evangelistic desire or impulse.

(b) Negatively, there are some things that will not produce the evangelistic atmosphere. It cannot be done by turning pulpits into forums of theological debate. Correct, creedal belief is not evangelistic passion. Creedal discussion may divert a church from its central task, and leave only hardness that hurts the spirit of unity, warmth and sweetness, so vital to soul winning. Nor is the evangelistic atmosphere nourished in any church by making the pulpit a platform for ceaseless discussion of divers social, political, and international issues. Nor is the atmosphere of evangelism stimulated by eliminating the things within the church that foster the spiritual growth of people: such as the services of prayer, Bible study, and devotions. Where these have been eliminated as a stated part of church procedure, evangelism is having a difficult time to be reborn. Has a generation grown up in our church life that lacks the understanding of and allegiance to those abiding foundations that must undergird all true evangelism?

(c) The church that would recover the evangelistic atmosphere must maintain within her life those agencies which feed the evangelistic spirit. The prayer meeting in many churches became moribund; so it was killed. By hard work, fresh thinking, and new approaches, it might have been saved. But neither pastor nor people would pay the price. So it died. And when it died, one of our major agencies to undergird the spirit of evangelism perished. With the dying out of the prayer meeting, the prayer emphasis in all our organizations declined.

Put prayer back in the heart of the church program. Let it again make its demand upon the time, strength and devotion of our people. One of our churches in New England a few years ago discovered it had lost, somewhere along the way, all zeal and interest in the redemption of men. The prayer meeting had died. A young minister came to the field. He began by reorganizing the midweek service. He set up the kind of service that had no precedent, but one that was deeply devotional and spirit-feeding. He boldly challenged his people to pray. The atmosphere in his church was completely changed. It is today one of our most fruitful evangelistic churches.

(d) *Build into the life of a church the doctrinal basis for evangelistic conviction and action.* Evangelistic churches are created out of evangelistic truths. There is a definite body of Gospel truth whose impact may be termed evangelistic. Should a church

says Dr. Arthur C. Archibald

Author of "New Testament Evangelism"

Director of Evangelism, Cleveland Baptist Association

fail to have those truths imbedded in its thinking and feeling, it will inevitably fail of the evangelistic atmosphere. True evangelism in a church is the product of the preaching of the great central truths of the Gospel. Dr. John English used to tell his Newton students, "Gentlemen, preach the great central truths of the Gospel; they will make you great preachers and your churches life-saving institutions." Is not the failure of the evangelistic atmosphere in many of our churches the product of preaching only on peripheral truths?

Preach the Great Truths

What are *the evangelistic truths of our Gospel?* Such as arouse conscience, quicken responsibility, and stir the will to action? There is the Being of God; His character and His purposes. Yet a middle-aged preacher said to me, "I have never preached on God. I have preached about Him and His work but never on Him." Then there is man and his deep necessities: his sin, his helplessness, his sorrows, his total inadequacy when left alone. There is the "Person of Jesus": His passionate concern for men, His purpose in coming, the devotion to Salvation that produced the Cross. There is the work and mission of the Holy Spirit in conversion, regeneration, upbuilding. There is the eternal truth of the part man has in his own salvation—and the vast incompleteness of human personality without Christ. There is also the emphasis upon the destiny of mankind.

Cultivate an Atmosphere

3. The evangelistic atmosphere can be cultivated by publicly and frequently explaining how one can begin the Christian life and enter into the fellowship of the church. That may involve merely an invitation to meet the pastor at the close of worship; but repeated it keeps the sense of expectancy toward the unsaved before the people. Should not every church make it known at every service on Sunday that the door is open for all who may wish to enter? . . .

Make much of the frequent presentation of evangelistic truth in the Sunday church school. If the children and youth catch an expectancy toward the necessity of decision, later in maturity they will support the evangelistic appeal in the church itself.

The evangelistic atmosphere may also be enriched by the appointment of special meetings to pray for the unchurched of the community. We tend in our interest to follow the leading of our prayers.

While there may be much difference in interpretation of doctrines, there is no difference among us regarding the vital necessity of all men coming to God through Christ. Christ is our Gospel. And our gospel is not primarily the preaching of hell, judgment, condemnation. It is first of all a proclamation of *Good News.*

I entered a large church in the midwest one Sunday evening. It was a beautiful church architecturally. A glorious choir led the singing. The whole atmosphere was shot through with the spirit of evangelism. The pastor was preaching from his heart. His topic was "The Seeking Christ." At the close of the service he appealed to any who might wish to walk the ways of life with Christ to enter a little room at the rear. Six mature people went in. As I went out a gentleman, whom I found to be a commercial traveller, said to me, "I hope your heart was with us. It is a lovely sight to see people turning to God." He went on to say, "It has been my ambition now for two years to win a soul to my Lord each week."

That church was a veritable runway for souls into a new life. It was the first and supreme thing in that church. The atmosphere was there. Thank God there are yet such churches; yet such preachers; yet such laymen.

Pastors, if you have read Dawson Bryan's "A Workable Plan of Evangelism" and want another real book to supplement it, order Dr. Archibald's *New Testament Evangelism* from The Publishing House.

The Story of a "See You IN CHURCH" Sticker

by Braswell Deen, Layman
Alma, Georgia

The sticker was given to me by Oscar M. Bell, pastor of the Alma Methodist Church, in the early fall of 1948, and was placed on the windshield of my car. It travelled some 5,000 miles throughout the several counties that I work, bearing its message but drawing no particular comment. However, on November 4, when I drove into an Amoco Service Station in Savannah, a Mr. W. N. Jordan (a tall, handsome, friendly and soft spoken young fellow of about 30), before asking me what he could do for me, said: "Well, I see you are a Methodist."

"A sorry one, yes," I replied. While he was getting his assistant to service my car, as he checked my tires, I looked myself over and wondered if he suspected I was a Methodist from the cigar I was smoking? A lot of us sorry Methodists do smoke. Finally I saw him look at the windshield, and then I knew he saw my "See You in Church Sunday" sticker.

After introducing myself, he inquired of my whereabouts, and saw a ring on my finger which indicated I had been somewhere and was trying to keep going. On learning I was in town with my sick wife, he became keenly interested in my problem. Looking me sympathetically in the face, he said: "If you need anything while you are in Savannah, let me know." Continuing, he said: "I am a member and official at Grace Methodist Church. Brinson C. Wallace is our pastor. I have lots of friends in Savannah." As I started to drive away his last words to me were: "If you need any checks cashed; if you need any blood, or anything—won't you let me know?"

Proceeding to the Telfair Hospital where the operation was to be the next morning, I resigned myself to a favorable outcome, both because of my wife's cheerful disposition, her strong will power and desire to get well, and because we had engaged one of the finest surgeons in the land.

The operation on the morrow would last four hours—requiring an incision of seventeen inches—and the removing of some ribs and the cutting of others. All pre-examinations had been made and everything was in readiness, including two pints of blood already placed in the laboratory and a soldier to be on hand in the morning to give a third pint.

That night my wife was comfortable and full of tender solicitation concerning the family. She talked of Mildred, our daughter in Atlanta; of Braswell, Jr., our son in law school at the University of Georgia in Athens, and of George and Ralph, our two sons at home. Especially solicitous was she of Ralph, our baby boy, only eight years old: "I hope I can get well and live to see him through high school. If anything happens to me, be sure and look after him. I do hope he doesn't sleep cold tonight."

At 7:30 o'clock the next morning they rolled my wife into the operating room, and I walked the floor downstairs.

Three pints of blood were needed for transfusions. Two pints were in the laboratory. The third pint was to be provided by a soldier from the local army base. The soldier was to be on hand at 8:00 o'clock sharp. He came, sat in a sitting room for a few minutes, got hungry, and went away to get him some breakfast, returning at 9:30.

By 8:30 the doctor was calling for the third pint of blood. The nurse came rushing downstairs. No soldier—no blood! Several people were excited, but none to compare to me. What could we do? Two or three people all asking me at the same time, don't you know somebody? Haven't you any friends?" One put a flash on the radio. One ran to a telephone. It was a distressing moment.

The Amoco Station where I had met Mr. Jordan the evening before was one block away. Though I am 55, I ran down there faster than I drove away the night before. I almost ran over an elderly lady, barely missed the end of a big freight truck, and when I got there I told Mr. Jordan my story. He said, "Don't worry. My blood is 2A. My pastor's, Brother Wallace, is 2A." Jumping in his car, he shouted as he drove away, "Brother Wallace and I will be there in ten minutes. They were there in less than ten minutes. The house doctor took the blood—one pint from each. The surgeon got it on time. The soldier returned at 9:30 and we took his also.

Despite a relapse the fourth day which required in all eight pints for transfusions, my wife came through, and is doing part of her housework, including seeing that Ralph doesn't sleep cold.

Thanks to all the good doctors, nurses, and attendants at Telfair Hospital, to Dr. Hayes Claxton, the finest surgeon and man I ever knew, and to all the good people in Savannah and elsewhere, and last but not least, to Mr. W. M. Jordan, Brother Brinson Wallace, and the "See You in Church Sunday" sticker, Ralph still has his mother, and I have much to be thankful for.

Let Us Give Attention to

HOW WE RECEIVE CHILDREN

by Mrs. P. E. Cunningham
Vicksburg, Miss.

How can we help having more than fifty per cent of our membership lukewarm when we consider the *limp* methods we use in receiving our children into the church?

If statistics are true that such a large per cent of the additions to church membership are from the church school, then we must make evangelism in the church school more meaningful.

My observation in my own church school and earnest prayer have brought me to the following program. Some of it is long range, but it can be started at once.

1. Let a mixed class of young adults (for they have young children) sponsor the buying and presenting to each new baby born to Methodist parents, a baby book put out by our Publishing House. In it are places to record everything of significance regarding the child's religious development and life in the church. Parents will have to take more seriously these milestones of spiritual development, and many will, if they have a reminder.

2. Create a "build up" in the life of every boy and girl regarding the time when they make a profession of their faith and are received into the church.

Have you noticed what takes place when a boy or girl graduates from high school? New clothes, parties, gifts, letters, and calls of congratulations from friends and relatives come from far and wide. Graduation has been anticipated and held up as a climax of years of persistent application.

Compare this with the day a child gives his heart to God. A few limp hand shakes after the service—and then it's sink or swim, survive or perish. Most parents aren't neglectful of the spiritual values, deliberately. They are just caught up in a series of circumstances which they seem unable to break. They have lost the zeal to battle for the real values of life.

We Must Act

We as Christian people can no longer permit ourselves to place paramount importance on all phases of a child's life except spiritual growth, and expect him to be a real child of the King.

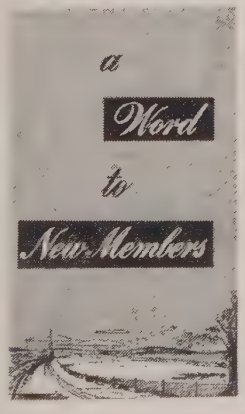
1. Let every church have a reception honoring that group coming in from the church school on Palm Sunday. Have talks by teachers and counselors telling the group how happy they are to have shared in the privilege of guiding them in their religious growth, and how happy they are now to be present on this great occasion.

2. Ask church friends to honor them with gifts, entertainments, etc.

3. Ask parents to have a dedication that day in the home. Invite in friends and family to unite in celebrating the greatest day in the life of any person, the day when he publicly, consciously gives his life to God.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a little bank with a beautiful picture on it of Christ blessing little children? Every church or W. S. C. S. could keep a supply on hand and present one to each child at birth. Every time the parents feel grateful for some blessing, they could put in a sacrificial offering. As the child grows older, the parents could explain that there are many little boys and girls who do not know of the love of Jesus, and that the day he takes Jesus as his Saviour the bank will go with him to the church. There it is to be dedicated and sent to a foreign field to make possible the telling of Jesus to a little child far away. We must early develop the thought that Christ is worth sharing and that He is not just something we accept without obligation.

I am interested also in making our nominal membership active, but right now I'm pleading for my grandchildren and all children who are passing through the Church of God knowing too little about Him whom angels worship.



Dear Bishop Hammaker:

"I have just had opportunity to read the booklet entitled, *A Word to New Members*. I must thank you for it. It is so seldom a manual of this kind is phrased simply, beautifully, and yet is comprehensive. . . . Thank you so much for having done this significant thing."

—*G. Bromley Oxnam*
Bishop New York Area

A WORD TO NEW MEMBERS

Large 24-page booklet
Attractive two-color cover
10c each; 12 for $1.00; 25 for $2.00

For every new member, and for those who are already members but would welcome a helpful discussion on the Church, Salvation, Growth in Christ, Prayer, Stewardship, Sharing Christ's Spirit.

One of these a *Methodist Primer*, a Methodist Membership card, and some selected leaflets on the church and the Christian life are included in the Tidings 50¢ METHODIST MEMBERSHIP KIT.

1908 Grand Avenue TIDINGS Nashville 4, Tenn.

Lent 1949

Encourage Daily Devotions

by • *Every Individual*
• *Every Home*

Take advantage of the upsurge in spiritual interest that comes with the Lenten period. Make this a time when your church can mark up definite and lasting gains. Family devotions and personal meditations in the families of your church will bear rich fruit in the form of:

1. Enrichment of the spiritual lives of individuals
2. Encouragement of church attendance
3. Development of a wider and deeper interest in all church activity

Make this Lenten emphasis in a form that will have a natural and planned carry-over into the whole year—not a program to be tried only for a few weeks. Use THE UPPER ROOM, the world's most widely used devotional guide.

It Is Not Too Late to Get Copies

You can take a copy into every home or send it with a message of concern for the spiritual welfare of every individual. Make sure that there is at least one copy for every family—provide a copy for individuals who do not have families to share their devotions.

Pocket Edition—Ideal for youth and young *people*—also useful for men and women to carry in pocket or purse.

Extra copies will be welcomed by members to send to neighbors and friends.

Regular or pocket edition—5 cents each, in lots of ten or more

Attractive envelopes for remailing—1 cent each, for 10 or more

Rush Orders
Mark all "Rush orders" plainly and send by special delivery
Emergency orders can be given one-day service

Order from THE UPPER ROOM 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

A Program of

ADVANCE

Outlined by Ministers and Laymen for

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The Episcopal message included these words about our evangelistic responsibility: "This turbulent postwar period presents an opportunity for a genuine revival of religion." The accomplishment of this revival is the work of evangelism. Therefore, we call upon the pastors and churches to thoroughly consecrate themselves to the task of winning souls.

The accomplishments of the Year of Evangelism prove that Methodism continues to be an evangelistic movement. This quadrennium presents a greater challenge than even the Year of Evangelism. We are asked to win 2,000,000 persons through confession of faith alone during the coming four years. The yearly goals will be:

1949—400,000
1950—500,000
1051—500,000
1952—600,000

In order that the Annual Conferences may be properly organized for this tremendous spiritual offensive we submit the following proposals with the request that a copy of this total report be sent to all pastors as soon as is possible.

Our committee recommends the following Advance program:

1. That a Jurisdictional meeting of all Annual Conference Boards of Evangelism be authorized to be called by the College of Bishops at the earliest possible time. They, in co-operation with the General Board of Evangelism, shall assist the Conference Boards of Evangelism in forwarding the quadrennial program in the various Conferences.

2. That our Conference Boards of Evangelism shall be provided adequate budgets for this work by Annual Conference World Service and Finance Commissions or by other available means.

3. That each Annual Conference shall have a Conference-wide Evangelistic Rally at some central location for a two- or three-day period. It should combine in its program inspirational messages and a workshop on methods by which the goals may be accomplished in the local churches.

4. That each District Committee on Evangelism shall arrange for a one-day meeting of all pastors and laymen in the district for the purpose of training each local church in winning others to Christ and His Church.

5. That each local church be urged to utilize various methods such as a series of public evangelistic services, regular visitation by the laymen, and Church School Decision days for the gaining of new converts.

6. That we call upon all pastors in this Jurisdiction to a renewal of vigorous evangelistic and doctrinal preaching, to an invitation for Christian discipleship at the close of each sermon, to a series of instructions for laymen on personal evangelism and to the deepening of our own prayer life.

7. That we encourage our laymen to accelerate the evangelistic spirit in the local church by a renewed pledge of loyalty to all the services of the Church, including Sunday night worship and midweek service, by a deepening of their personal devotional life through using the Layman Speaker's plan adopted at the 1948 General Conference, and by their visiting with other laymen in the homes of their unsaved friends for the purpose of gaining their commitment to Christ.

8. That we enlist our church families in the Christian Family movement in which they will practice daily family worship, Christian living in the home, and regular worship in the Church.

9. That each Methodist leader shall explore possibilities for evangelistic promotion by means of the radio, television, tracts, press, motion pictures, advertising, literature, and street, shop and store preaching.

Social reforms will come in the wake of a revival of religion. A Christian world order will follow. Let us press vigorously our evangelistic commission that Christ's Kingdom may come quickly.

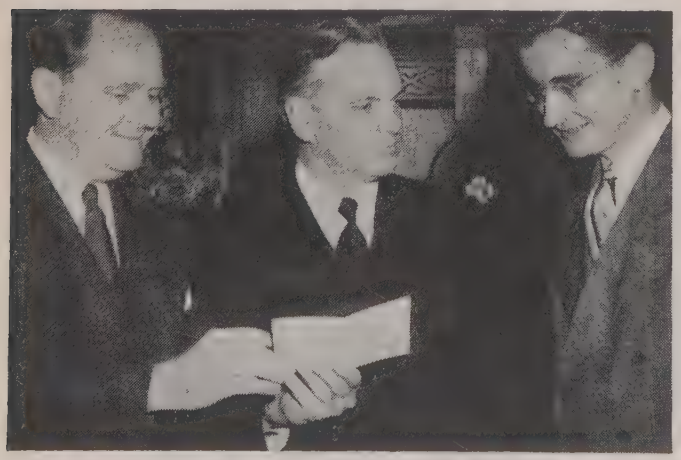
—This message was adopted by the North Central Jurisdictional Conference.

The Real Advance Will Come Through Evangelism

and a Deepening of the Spiritual Life

Ministers at School of Evangelism at Framingham.
This was one of the Pastor's Training Schools.

Ministers at School of Evangelism at Ware.
These Training Schools were at strategic points
throughout Massachusetts in the New England Conference



John Hoon, Conference Secretary of Evangelism
Bishop John Wesley Lord, Boston Area
Ernest Case, Worcester District Secretary of Evangelism

ADVANCE THROUGH EVANGELISM

in the New England Conference

A new departure in Conference Evangelism has been planned and experienced in the New England Conference. Under the direction of the Conference Board of Evangelism and the District Secretaries, a three-weeks effort was carried out with Sunday Afternoon Preparatory Conferences and Pastor's Training Schools in three regional centers covering the four Districts of the Conference.

The unique element of this effort was the use of the district and local church Lay Leaders, Secretaries of Spiritual Life of the W.S.C.S., and chairmen of Worship and Evangelism of the M.Y.F. of the Conference, The Conference and District officers in all three of these groups co-operated well. Each of the four District Lay Leaders actively participated in the program and sent letters to the local church lay leaders to encourage their co-operation and participation.

Evangelistic Services Follow Visitation

Another feature of the New England Conference plan was the 19 evangelistic rallies held in strategic points on the Sunday nights following the Pastor's Training Schools and the visitation in the local churches. These evangelistic services were designed to be held immediately following the Pastor's Training Schools—and the visitation in the local churches likewise—so that the inspiration of the Training Schools could be conserved.

These meetings served as a fitting climax to the week of effort by the pastors and laymen who had been winning persons to Christ and the Church. The pastors, the lay and youth workers, and the newly won, as well as the "regular" members, attended these services to receive inspiration and instruction in "further steps" in Christian living. In several instances persons were invited to these meetings who had not been won by the visitation, and one church (Grace Church, Cambridge) reported seven of them at the altar.

A good start was made in training pastors and laymen in visitation evangelism. It is hoped that 2,500 laymen and 1,000 youth may be trained to do effective work in the local churches of the Conference. About 60 pastors participated in the Schools and Preparatory Conferences, including the Bishop and the District Superintendents. Though some of the pastors have been doing this sort of work in their churches for years, many learned how to do it for the first time. There are 21 churches that have already reported results, and a number of pastors are planning to carry out this program locally before April 1.

At one of the noon luncheons of the Pastor's Training School, a splendid young pastor said to the director: "I came into this program out of self-defense. I didn't think I could stand on the sidelines because other pastors would be doing this evangelistic job. I was not sold on visitation evangelism, but after two nights of this work I have changed my mind. I'm completely sold on it."

by John Hoon, Springfield, Mass.

Conference Secretary of Evangelism

21 Churches Win 300

The 21 churches mentioned above reported their first results in visitation evangelism, as follows: a total of 124 teams visited 627 persons for Christ and the Church, secured 214 first decisions and 86 transfers, and received 59 requests for baptism. This is an accession ratio of 47.8% of the persons visited.

It is significant that the Lay Leaders and the Secretaries of Spiritual Life of the W.S.C.S., as well as the Chairmen of Worship and Evangelism of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, had an active part in this Conference program of evangelism. The District Lay Leaders took excellent leadership in the Sunday Afternoon Preparatory Conferences and helped engage the interest and participation of the layworkers in the local churches.

Laymen can produce results. One pastor reported that a team of two laymen won their local church chairman of the Board of Trustees to take his stand for Christ and the Church publicly, whereas three pastors had failed to win him over a period of several years.

Increased Attendance

Pastors also report that this evangelistic effort has demonstrated its effectiveness in the increase in attendance at church services. Malcolm Keir, pastor of Milford, Mass., reports: "The visitation did our attendance lots of good, too. We have been averaging about 122 people at the Sunday morning services. Yesterday we had 155! We are all happy about the program."

Ernest Case, the District Secretary of Evangelism for the Worcester District and pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church in Framingham, Mass., writes: "Our Pastor's School and the visitation in Framingham have far-reaching effects. Yesterday morning at our service of worship there were 137 people present—just about the highest Sunday attendance (exclusive of Christmas, Easter or special event) of any Sunday on record. This was probably due in no small measure to the vitality of our visitation program."

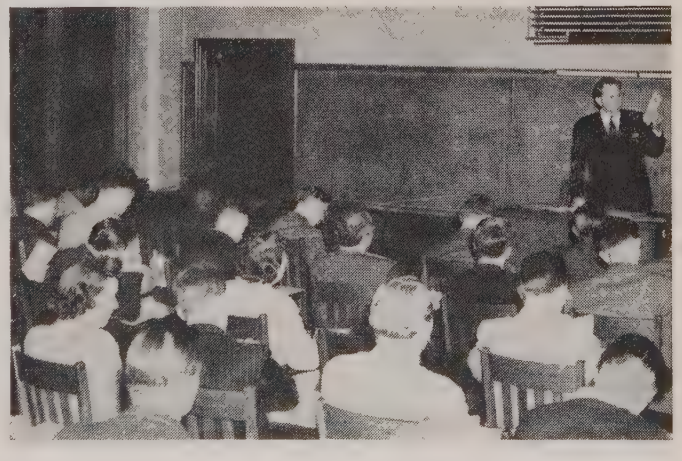
"1 for 17" Already

Five churches engaging in the evangelism effort this time have reported that they have won more new decisions than their goal for new members for the entire Conference Year on "1 for 17" ratio. The one new member for every 17 active members is the evangelistic goal for every local church during the year. The New England Annual Conference goal is 4,058 new members on confession of faith.

With the start that has been made through the Conference-wide effort, the continued cooperation of the Bishop and the District Superintendents, together with the District Secretaries of Evangelism, the pastors, laymen and youth, there is no question that the New England Conference will press on to greater achievements "For Christ and His Church Through Evangelism."

Pastors Training School in visitation evangelism at Cambridge, Massachusetts, across Charles River from Boston.

Leaders in Cambridge School of Evangelism with Boston District Superintendent in center



John Hoon, Cambridge pastor and Conference Secretary of Evangelism, has been teaching accredited course in evangelism in Boston University School of Theology for two years now.

Everywhere I Went in Africa

Everywhere I went in Africa I found *The Upper Room*. In missionary homes across the Congo, through the Rhodesias, and on into the Union of South Africa this little devotional booklet was on the breakfast tables. As it was read from day to day, I had a sense of fellowship in a world-wide family with God as the Father of us all. *The Upper Room* is a blessing everywhere it is read.

—Bishop Ledden

Good Literature Sunday

The Bethany Methodist Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, where Robert M. Green is pastor, set aside a Sunday as Good Literature Sunday, advertised it thoroughly, and waged an active campaign for the periodicals of The Methodist Church to be subscribed for by every home.

The periodicals that were mentioned by name and held up before the people were: *The Christian Advocate, The World Outlook, The Methodist Woman, The Methodist Layman, The Christian Home,* SHEPHERDS, and *The Upper Room.*

As a result of this Sunday 12 subscriptions to SHEPHERDS Magazine were received. This is more than the equivalent for one subscription for every member of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism.

The Upper Room led the list in the goals for this Sunday, but the Official Board of the church, realizing the worth of *The Upper Room,* adopted the plan of placing a copy of it in every home. Blessed is the church that has an Official Board that will see that the people read *The Upper Room,* and to this end see that every home regularly receives a copy.

We Voted to Continue

THE PARISH CULTIVATION PLAN

by Glenn C. Frye, Pastor, Big Springs, Nebraska

The plan was more than half self-supporting this first year. However, the most impressive factors have been the unsolicited comments of many non-attending church members and "borderline" Christians.

One club woman reported to her club: "I got this idea from a little book somebody sent me in the mail. It was called the Inner—or—Outer Room." "Was it the *Upper* Room?" someone asked. "Oh, yes! That's it! That's the name: The *Upper* Room."

Another business woman handed the pastor a five-dollar bill, saying: "This is in appreciation of *The Upper Room* you have been sending me."

In my visitation, I often find this devotional guide mentioned, and in several instances have had inquiries about how to go about getting the family together to have family worship using it. I know *The Upper Room* itself opened the door to this possibility.

I always send a pastoral letter along with *The Upper Room,* which letter is mentioned to me as frequently as *The Upper Room.* This Parish Cultivation Plan provides the regular and frequent occasion for these letters which most likely would not be written if it were not for the mailing schedule to which *The Upper Room* holds me.

NOTE: Will you therefore have us continued for 1949 for 200 copies of each issue?

THEY SAY IT'S

"The Most Wonderful Little Book"

We organized our Young Adult Fellowship recently and their first two major projects were that of redecorating the church auditorium, and putting *The Upper Room* in every home according to The Parish Cultivation Plan.

The distribution of *The Upper Room* was well received by the members of the church, and by the more than fifty families who are on our responsibility list. *The Upper Room* has always been at our church on sale, but when one of our members received a copy in the mail, he sent in fifty cents saying that it was the most wonderful little book that he had ever seen. He had never heard of it before.

—E. S. Denton, pastor, Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

of Hardinsburg, Kentucky

Because the proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof, D. Atwood Bird of Ogden, Utah, says

"Ask the Man Who Has Used It"

THE PARISH CULTIVATION PLAN

There are some who believe that "mass" or pulpit and public evangelism is the most successful way of meeting the indifference of the people of our time. Others are of the opinion that personal and visitation evangelism is the more effective method. Whatever the plan used, the end is always the same. Our interest is in the deeper spiritualization of the individual, and this is where the Parish Cultivation Plan comes in.

First of all, let it be understood that the Parish Cultivation Plan is an *aid*. It will not substitute for the work done in preaching or in visitation. As preachers, we must still strive for sermons that will reach the people and give them cause for serious meditation. And as pastors, we must still go as shepherds into the homes entrusted to our care. But with the aid of the Cultivation Plan we are able to carry on a more complete ministry, because *The Upper Room* is going into every home of our constituency. That is the essence of the Parish Cultivation Plan—*The Upper Room* in every home in the church.

A Genuine Awakening

Some have considered it a waste of time and effort and money to send *The Upper Room* into every home, because there are so many homes that might not use them. Now, admittedly, there are some homes that will not use *The Upper Room. But who is to tell which homes these will be!* We never know when the meditation for a particular day will strike a spark in some person's life that will kindle anew the flame of Christlikeness. There is quite a file of letters in the offices of *The Upper Room,* from people who have picked up *The Upper Room* in an idle moment, read the meditations therein, and have experienced a genuine Christian awakening. What if *The Upper Room* had not been available?

Speaking of wasted time and effort, all of our church program has a certain amount of wasted effort. If there is a 50% response to any given evangelistic campaign (preaching and visitation) we consider it to be successful. Or consider the morning worship service—what percentage of the people attending church on Sunday morning are really affected by that worship service? Judged by the same standards, the Parish Cultivation Plan should not be considered at all as a waste of time and effort and money. It definitely is not.

Helps Even the Best Members

Not only is *The Upper Room* effective in the "inactive" home of a church, but it is a great help to the "active" members of a church. One family that I know of, for instance, has always been active on the Official Board and in the Church School and Woman's Society of Christian Service, but not until *The Upper Room* was sent into their home as part of the Parish Cultivation Plan did they make use of it. A pastoral letter enclosed with *The Upper Room,* suggesting that the Family Altar should be in each home, was the only impetus needed. Another family complained they did not know how to read the Bible. Again, all that was needed was the suggestion that they follow the scripture readings as found in *The Upper Room* meditations. It was not so much that they did not know how to read the Bible as it was *what* to read.

Furthermore, *The Upper Room* sent to college students, military personnel, and others away from home, can be a real help to them.

Harry Denman, Executive Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism, and Roy L. Smith, Publishing Agent of The Methodist Church and until recently editor of *The Christian Advocate,* were snapped at the recent meeting of Conference Secretaries of Evangelism in Buck Hill Falls. Dr. Smith is the author of LITTLE LESSONS IN SPIRITUAL EFFICIENCY and EMERGENCY RATIONS, two of the helpful devotional booklets published by *The Upper Room.*

Methods of Distribution

There are various ways of getting *The Upper Room* into the homes. Each way has its own particular advantage. You can mail them, unsealed, for only 3¢, and this will allow you to enclose a mimeographed or printed letter with each copy. This means that every two months the people of the church will receive an *Upper Room,* and also a letter from their pastor.

Another method is to have the Board of Stewards responsible for delivering *The Upper Room* personally to each home in the church. This has the advantage of lay visitation.

Another suggestion might be to have a Church School Class or some organization responsible for the distribution.

District Cultivation Plan

In Utah (while we were yet the Utah Mission) a plan was devised whereby *The Upper Room* would go into all the Methodist homes of our Conference. If the *Parish* Cultivation Plan is good, then the *District* or *Conference* Cultivation Plan should be better. For one year, the needed number of copies of *The Upper Room* and mailing envelopes are furnished to each charge not already using the Parish Cultivation Plan. This will be paid for by our Conference Board of Evangelism and the Board of Lay Activities. After using the Plan for a year, it is hoped that each church will then carry on under its own Parish Cultivation Plan.

The Parish Cultivation Plan might well paraphase a popular advertising slogan for its own. We often see and hear, "Ask the man who owns one." For the Parish Cultivation Plan we might say, "Ask the man who has used it." For having once put the Cultivation Plan into effect, you will keep it.

How a Growing City Builds
NEW METHODIST CHURCHES

by J. O. Haymes, District Superintendent
Lubbock, Texas

Like many other cities in the nation, Lubbock, Texas, has experienced a rapid growth within the past decade. The 1940 census gave the city a population of 31,853. The 1950 count will probably show nearly 50,000 within the city limits, and enough people living in the outlying suburbs to run the figure beyond the 60,000 mark. And, like in too many other urban centers, Methodism has not quite kept pace with the growth in population.

In 1940 there were three Methodist churches in the city with a total full membership of 3,453. Today we have six churches with a total full membership of approximately 6,700. (These totals do not include a small Negro congregation belonging to the Central Jurisdiction, nor a Mexican church which is a part of the Rio Grande Conference.) These figures may not look too bad, but, knowing the situation and the needs of our community, we are convinced that they are not good enough.

Two of our six churches were organized during 1948. We hope to get another new church started in 1949. This church is to be established in one of the most populous and rapidly-growing sections of the city, and it ought, within a few years, to become one of our strong churches. For it we already have a half-block of land strategically located about two miles from any other Methodist church. This site is being donated by the S. L. Forrest family, generous members of First Church.

City Board of Church Extension

The first step we took toward the expansion of Methodism in Lubbock was to ask and receive the authorization of the District Conference for the organization of a City Board of Missions and Church Extension. This board elected as its president O. L. Byrd, a layman in First Church, and B. L. Williamson of Asbury Church as treasurer. The District Superintendent is vice-president, and W. F. Gaede, Pastor of Overton Church, is secretary.

The City Board has promoted the organization and development of our two new churches. All of our churches in the city have representation membership on the Board in proportion to their memberships, and all of them have cooperated in securing funds for building.

Survey and Beginnings

Our next step was a survey of the areas where new churches were needed. This was done during a School of Evangelism under the leadership of Harry Denman and Dawson C. Bryan. Some twelve or fifteen visiting pastors who were attending the school assisted in the survey. This survey revealed that there were several hundred Methodists, or people with Methodist background, in each of the areas being studied.

Then we faced the problem of a place for the people to meet in order to form the nucleus of a church organization in each of the sections under consideration. Here is how we met that need:

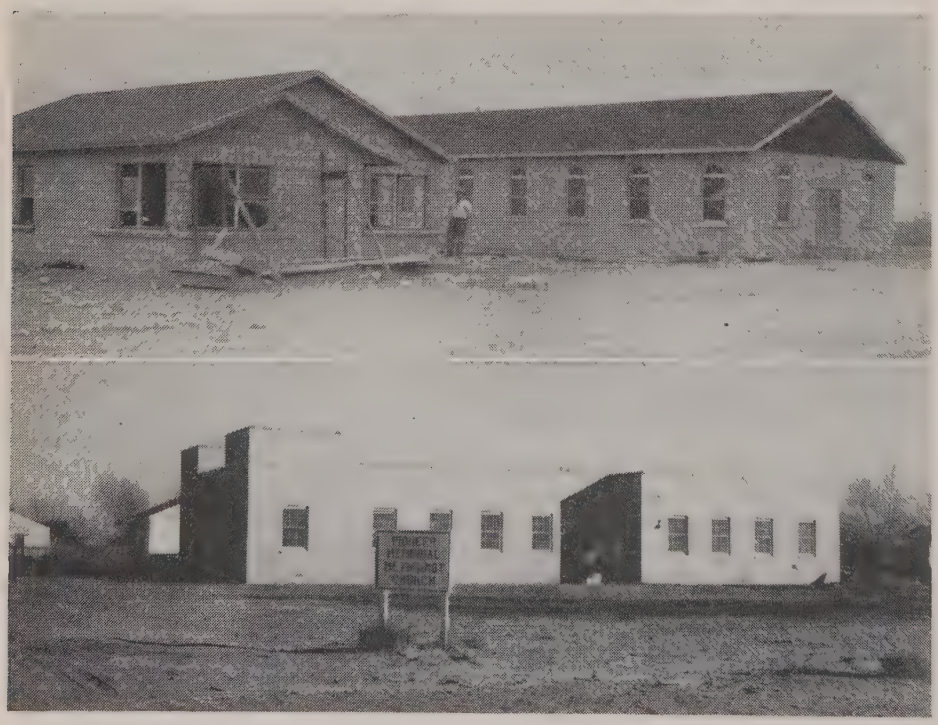
In the Arnett-Benson Addition, where more than seven thousand people reside, we were tendered the use on alternate Sundays of the Primitive Baptist Church. After a few weeks the Arnett-Benson Missionary Baptist Church allowed us to use each Sunday the assembly room of their educational building. This arrangement continued until the congregation was able to move into its own building.

In the East Broadway section there was no building available, so we waited until warm weather and leased a tent from the Nazarene Church. In this tent a church and church school were organized and the work was carried on throughout the summer.

Pioneer Memorial

At the Annual Conference in June regular full-time pastors were appointed for both of these new churches. After its organization each church was allowed to select its own name. The one in the Arnett-Benson division was named The Pioneer Memorial Methodist Church; the other, at least temporarily, is named The East Broadway Methodist Church.

When the problem of buildings was



Top—East Broadway Methodist, Lubbock, C. A. Hartley, pastor.
Bottom—Pioneer Memorial, Lubbock, J. Alvis Cooley, pastor.

faced, the City Board gave its full support to the task of raising funds for building the first unit on each new site which had been selected. It was unfortunate that we had two new enterprises of this nature under way simultaneously, but in each situation the need was so urgent that it seemed that neither could wait.

The Pioneer Memorial Church is named in honor of the pioneer circuit riders of the Northwest Texas Conference. Dr. Sam G. Dunn, a son of one of them, made the first donation, and solicited other funds to get this enterprise started. Dr. Dunn is a prominent physician and a steward in First Church. A strategic site was selected and purchased and the first unit has been erected. It is built of brick and tile at a cost of a little over $25,000, exclusive of the lots. The building has more than 4,000 square feet of floor space. The congregation moved into its new building the last Sunday in September, 1948. On that day a Sunday school was started, and since that date the average attendance has been a little more than one hundred. The present church membership is 136. J. Alvis Cooley is the pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church.

East Broadway

The East Broadway Church, which began in a tent, was organized in August, 1948. Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Whitehead of Slaton gave three lots, and have since made substantial cash donations to this church. Mr. Paul Cates, chairman of the Board of St. John's Church, gave the first $1,000 for this enterprise. A building constructed of pumice tile will soon be completed. It is 36 x 80 feet, and will contain all the modern facilities necessary to make it adequate to the needs of the congregation for a number of years. East Broadway Church now has 84 members; and the church school attendance has run as high as 64. This church is located in a distinct subdivision of the city where about 3,000 people live. C. A. Hartley is its pastor.

Two New Parsonages

Both of these new churches already have a loyal and enthusiastic membership. This is evidenced by the fact that each church has built for the occupancy of its pastor and family a comfortable, modern parsonage. The Pioneer Memorial parsonage is already occupied. The East Broadway parsonage, being built of pumice tile, is nearing completion.

A vital aid in the erecting of these churches came from the Crusade for Christ funds. Dr. H. V. Cropper and Dr. B. P. Murphy of the Board of Church Extension at Louisville have rendered very valuable assistance. Also, many other loyal laymen and women of the various churches have given generous amounts to these two enterprises. The Methodist Men's Club of First Church has raised among its members some $1,500 for the East Broadway Church. Without the co-operation of the local churches and the aid of the Crusade Committee this work could not have succeeded. These two new churches have church and parsonage properties which, when completed, will be conservatively valued at $50,000. And we have every reason to believe that within five years they will have a combined membership of five or six hundred.

The Lord be praised for His blessings upon this work.

FIVE HOLY WEEK RADIO SCRIPTS

Dramatic Narrative Scripts
for Preacher or Radio Narrator

For One Voice
To Use On The Radio Or In Your Church

"Were You There When
They Crucified My Lord?"

1—Simon Was There!
2—The Thief Was There!
3—Judas Was There!
4—Mary Was There!
5—The Roman Soldier Was There!

Vivid—Moving—Imaginative

by

Robert L. Curry

Complete with format and music suggestions $2.50

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

NEW LEAFLETS

for general distribution

BEFORE EASTER

The Wonderful Christ

by Bishop J. C. Broomfield

This great tribute to Christ
draws the heart strangely to Him
16 pages—$2.00 per 100

The Angel and Mr. Oddsock

by Roy E. Sommers

A reprint from "The Reader's Digest"
that puts a spiritual emphasis upon life
12 pages—$2.00 per 100

OTHER LEAFLETS:

Why I Believe in Christ

Christ the World Savior

Christ Captures a Man

Use TIDINGS Order Blank in this magazine

THE GREATEST EVENT

W. B. Jones

A college ministerial student

I gaze into the heavens
And into my view
Swim millions of stars.

They have existed since
Time Eternal,
And have seen all of the
Sorrows and joys,
Laughter and heartaches,
That the universe has known
In the long ago.

Arcturus saw Joseph sold into Egypt,
And Moses bring the Ten Commandments
Down from Sinai.

Orion saw Socrates
Drink the poison hemlock
With a smile that shines down through the ages.

Pegasus took note of Caesar
Crossing the Rubicon,
And Jupiter looked on while
Luther and Zwingli and Hus
Fought for religious freedom.

At last Pleiades saw Hitler and Mussolini
Try to stamp out the sparks of
Freedom that remained in the world.

Yes, the stars
Have discerned many things,
But sober history
Is not all they have surveyed.

They have seen heroes and heroines,
Cowards and traitors.

They have laughed with the mother
As she watches her baby
Take his first steps,
And they have wept with the same mother
As she learns of her son's death in battle.

They have seen the first robin
As he wings his way northward
To bring in the glorious springtime
To hearts burdened with winter.

They have also seen men despair
And give up their lives as hopeless,
Because they did not know God.

These stars have seen many things;
From the earth's beginning until now
They have viewed its progress,
And many times its degradation.
But, the stars remain silent.

They do not
Speak in earthly tones.
They cannot let us know of all they
Would like to tell—
But, if they could—

If each star had its chance to
Relate to the world the
Greatest event that it ever looked on—
Had its chance to say,
This, O mortal man,
Is the greatest event
That took place on earth--
Each would tell the same story:

That Jesus the Christ,
The Saviour of all men
Gave His life on a felon's cross,
"A ransom for many";

"That God so loved the world
That He gave
His only begotten Son,
That whosoever believeth in Him
Should not perish,
But have everlasting life."

ASSIMILATION AND TRAINING FOR MEMBERSHIP

by James S. Chubb, Pastor, Grand Island, Nebraska

It is time for every pastor to hold a training class for all preparatory members and for those received by confession of faith. New converts need training on personal religious habits, on the basic beliefs of our faith, and in church activities. We have several membership manuals (notably those available from the Publishing House) that are excellent for this purpose. Good church members must be trained the same as any other type of workers.

Assimilation into the work and membership of the church requires deliberate planning. We recommend that every pastor, at the time of receiving members in the church and as a finishing touch to his training program, provide the new member with a check list of the activities of the church and ask him to indicate those activities with which he is especially interested and willing to work.

Money is not everything in the church, but regular gifts, preferably a tithe, are a part of stewardship. Financial giving to the church program and budget is a vital part of the understanding and program of the new church member. Some churches talk that over before the person is taken into the church, as a part of the membership training. This is vital, the same as right beliefs, spiritual habits, and church loyalty.

Another vital thing in assimilation is the use of the "Partner in Christ" idea —the Fellowship Friend. Some churches assign the new member to an older member who is responsible for the assimilation and introduction of the younger member into the activities and fellowship of the church. This keeps the older member on his toes and provides a sponsor for the new member. We recommend it.

The training and assimilation of the new member is as essential as converting him in the first place. If he is not properly trained he is apt to become a misdirected church member. We have enough of this kind. We cannot afford to allow any church member to become atrophied or religiously warped from lack of training.

ADULT CLASSES IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Classes in Church Membership are common during the Lenten season. This is particularly true with reference to classes of training children for church membership and the Christian life. More and more it is the custom for pastors to train adults for church membership, especially following Visitation Evangelism campaigns when adults are received into the church in rather large numbers.

The *Discipline* says that "it shall be the duty of the pastor to instruct *all* persons offering themselves for church membership in the principles of the Christian life, in the baptismal and membership vows of The Methodist Church." (Par. 112.) Similarly, it makes it the pastor's duty "to instruct candidates for membership in the church in the doctrines, rules and regulations of the church." (Par. 352.) More than this, it specifically names *adults:* "To form classes of the children, youth, and *adults* for instruction in the word of God." (Section 5.)

But the new adult members of the church are not the only members who will need to be instructed. In fact, there are many who are already members of the church who would welcome training in instruction classes by the pastor. What better thing during the Lenten season could a pastor do than have adults, both new members and members who are not new, gather at the church one evening a week for instruction in the principles of the Church and the Christian life?

There are two very fine books available now at low cost that would make excellent background for these instruction classes, and everyone who attends would be glad to purchase these books: *The Methodist Primer,* and *The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian.* A 50¢ piece will purchase both of these books for a Methodist family.

What information and inspiration there is in them for Methodists!

METHODIST MEMBERSHIP KIT

50¢ — Give One to Every New Member — 50¢

Contains *The Methodist Primer, A Word to New Members,* a Membership Card, and some selected leaflets on the Church and the Christian life.

Order from TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

Things Are Happening

AT PASCAGOULA

Pascagoula is a town on the Gulf Coast between Mobile and Gulfport that was little known before the war, except for the famous legend of "The Singing River." A ship building industry during the war caused Pascagoula to mushroom into a town of considerable proportion. Now that the ship building is over, at least of any sizable scale, everyone thought that Pascagoula was settling back to sleepy ways. But not so with the Methodist church there. Between October 15 (when the annual Conference session met) and January 25—a period of a little more than three months—111 persons were received into the church on profession of faith and 56 by transfer of membership. One ex-service man, Jewel Palmer Denny, has answered the call to preach and has started back to school.

The Annual Conference in October sent a new pastor to the First Methodist Church at Pascagoula, a pastor who felt as others, that he had been sent to a vanishing town and church. He prayed earnestly that God might get into the middle of the appointment and that he, the pastor, might be used of God in the saving of souls there in the coast country. He is so certain that what has happened is the work of God that he does not even want his name mentioned in connection with information in this article. Certain it is that no preacher can do a job for God depending upon his own resources. God must do the work. God must bless the results.

Steps to Success

It is possible to point out some of the steps that have led to this great evangelistic success at Pascagoula:

1. Soon after Annual Conference, a survey was held and Robert M. Matheney, the full-time Director of Evangelism, was present for a three-day training school of evangelism. This training school of evangelism met with fair success, but did not bring the results hoped for.

2. The real success in visitation has been happening on Tuesday nights since the school of evangelism. Each Tuesday night the men of the church meet with the pastor for a prayer of dedication, and then they go out into the homes to visit. The men have caught the feel of visitation and the joy of it to such an extent that they can hardly bear to miss a Tuesday night.

3. At the first Quarterly Conference one of the leading men of the church stood up and begged the men of the church to start being honest with God and to begin tithing. This man himself had never paid more than $5.00 per month to the church. The plea of this layman started a tithing program among the men, and the financial problems of the church are no more.

4. A full-time Director of Evangelism and Evangelistic Education has been secured, and she majors on work among the young people and children. Many of the young people have had brilliant Christian experiences and do not hesitate to give testimony for Christ at the Sunday and Wednesday evening services.

5. An uncompromising gospel has been preached. The pastor testifies that he has felt the presence of the Holy Spirit at every service. Laymen have even been observed to fall upon their knees during the sermon, and the preacher testifies to renewed power when this happens: "While I was preaching something would happen to me that was out of this world."

6. The secret of the awakening of old First Church probably lies in the prayers of the men and women of the church. The Wednesday night services have averaged an attendance of 146 by actual count. No effort is made on Wednesday night to have a "prayer meeting" but rather an evangelistic service and a testimonial meeting. The city of Pascagoula is sitting up and taking notice of this church during recent months.

LEAFLETS FOR HONEST SEEKERS

How to Become a Christian, **by Bishop Roy H. Short—$1.00 per 100**
Six Steps to the New Life, **by Dr. E. Stanley Jones—$1.50 per 100**
Man **(answers some of Man's deepest questions) $1.00 per 100**
Salvation **(tells what God does and what man must do)—$1.00 per 100**
New Life for Me, **by Dr. Albert E. Day—$1.00 per 100**

ABINGDON-COKESBURY BOOKS

To Fulfill This Ministry, by Bishop William C. Martin. (142 pages. $1.75. The Methodist Publishing House.)

Here is a new book by one of our Methodist Bishops. The author is the leader of "The Advance for Christ and His Church" for this quadrennium, and has had a fruitful experience both as a pastor and as a pastor of pastors.

He himself says that this is "a plain book about practical matters. It is the outflowing of the conviction that the measure of the church's strength in a generation is the fidelity and effectiveness of its pastoral ministry." He writes with rare insight and practical wisdom concerning the various phases of the pastor's activity. His messages are warmhearted and are contagiously enthusiastic.

In this volume Bishop Martin discusses the importance of the local church as the basic working unit of Christianity, stresses the basic requirements of successful evangelism, discusses the pastor's responsibility to his congregation, treats of the pastor's relationship to his laymen, discusses sound methods for working for the Ecumenical movement within the local church, and makes concrete suggestions for the pastor's daily life. Thus this is a very practical book that will do any minister much good who will read it.

Bearing Witness to the Truth, by Harold Cooke Phillips. (219 pages. $2.50. The Methodist Publishing House.)

To say that this is the new Lyman Beecher "Yale" Lectures on Preaching is sufficient. Here is an invaluable book for every preacher and theological student who seeks to increase his power as "a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

The author is a native of Jamaica, who came to this country at the age of twenty and has been pastor of the First Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, for the last twenty years.

The names of the chapters will indicate something as to the real worth of this book: 1. What is truth? 2. Truth as moral reality. 3. Ways of knowing the truth. 4. The sermon and the truth. 5. The preacher and the truth. 6. Christ, the truth.

In the fourth chapter the author describes how he himself prepares sermons, and he discusses the literary and spiritual qualities of a good sermon.

The Meaning of Christ for Paul, by Elias Andrews. (256 pages. $3.00. The Methodist Publishing House.)

Here is a significant answer to the question, "What did Paul think about Christ and why, and how did he come to think it?"

The author affirms that Paul's Christology grew out of his experiences of Christ and relationship to Christ. At every point Paul's beliefs are a result of the teachings of the Jesus of history, and not a superimposed "religion about Jesus."

Elias Andrews is professor at Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was educated both in Canada and at Drew University, New Jersey. He divides his volume into three mainheads: The Relation of Christ to Mankind; The Relation of Christ to God; and The Origins of Pauline Christology.

THE APPROVED EVANGELISTS
Meet in Second Annual Session

by Andrew Johnson, Approved Evangelist

The second annual session of the approved evangelists of The Methodist Church met December 27-31 in the First Methodist Church, Memphis, Tennessee. Harry Denman, Executive Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism, was present to greet and to counsel and to give encouragement.

Twelve Methodist churches had the evangelists to preach at evening services during the week: Parkway, Harris Memorial, St. Paul's, Galloway, Springdale, Union Avenue, St. Mark's, Capletville, Epworth, Calvary, Jackson Avenue, and Raleigh; and likewise the Cumberland Presbyterian and South Side Nazarene.

The special convention speaker was Joseph Owen, pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church, Atlanta, Ga., who brought inspirational messages each morning on "The Master's Congregation," "The Gospel of Christ," "Christ and Life's Crises," and "An Open Door."

A number of heartening talks were made by Harry Denman to the evangelists and to the pastors who were present.

G. P. Comer presided at most of the sessions with grace, dignity and fairness. The members of the staff of the General Board of Evangelism who were present (Harry L. Williams, Dawson C. Bryan, and Howard W. Ellis) showed a fine spirit of co-operation and encouraged the approved evangelists in their great work for the salvation of souls and the edification of the Church.

George J. Creswell, pastor of the Second Methodist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, gave a number of splendid addresses on "What the Pastor Expects of the Evangelist."

The closing address was delivered by Wayne Lamb, of Memphis, on "A Year of Evangelistic Preaching." The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: E. R. Overly, President; Lawrence L. Lacour, First Vice President; G. P. Comer, Second Vice President; Quay Parmer, Secretary; and J. P. Gibson, Treasurer.

The following evangelists were present; O. B. Poulson, Huntington, Pa.; G. P. Comer, Dallas, Texas; Quay Parmer, Waco, Texas; F. L. Turner, Fort Worth, Texas; L. L. Lacour, Des Moines, Iowa; J. D. Gibson, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky; J. R. Parker, Wilmore, Kentucky; E. R. Overly, Ft. Thomas, Kentucky; H. C. Sims, Westfield, Kentucky; C. B. Hutcherson, Daytona, Florida; J. W. Riley, Tatum, New Mexico; G. M. Hamby, Florence, Alabama; John Paul, Louisville, Kentucky; H. A. Screws, Huntsville, Alabama; Preston Florence, Seagraves, Texas; Howard R. McDade, Sharptown, Maryland; G. W. Porte, Herndon, Va.; E. A. Peterson, Houston, Texas; R. T. Houts, New Market, Tennessee; and Ben Underwood, Wilmore, Kentucky, Song Evangelist.

The Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, Louisville, Ky., carried this picture of an evangelist in action on its front page on January 12. Let's put religion in the news. Too often stories of sin and sordidness crowd out that which is uplifting and character developing.

Dee Warren Cobb
Wilmore, Kentucky
(Kentucky Conference)

Feb. 27-Mar. 13.... Cincinnati, Ohio
Mar. 16-27 .....Saginaw, Michigan
Apr. 3-15.....Newport, Kentucky
April 19-May 1....Russell, Kentucky

Preaching Mission
"Methodism Has a Message"

E. L. Butler, a district superintendent of the Southwest Missouri Conference, held a fourteen-day preaching mission at Peculiar, Missouri, preaching on the subjects outlined by the Advance Committee and teaching a study class on the meaning of Methodism using Bishop Kern's book, *Methodism Has a Message.* The average attendance at the class was 20.

As a result of the preaching mission, 18 persons were baptized and 24 were received into the Church. Among these were the superintendent of the High School, the chairman of the Boy Scout Committee of the community, and 12 other strong adults. Included also were some young people and a few children.

The attendance at the evening service started off at 108 and increased. Beginning with the third night the house was full every night, including Saturday nights. The final night witnessed people filling all Sunday school rooms, and even using tables and windows for seats.

This district superintendent expects to hold four such preaching missions throughout his district this year.

?? Looking for
a communion leaflet
at Easter time ??
"This Do in Remembrance of Me"
by John L. Ferguson
$1.00 per 100
Use TIDINGS Order Blank

To Every Pastor and Evangelistic Layman IN THE CENTRAL JURISDICTION

A message from J. W. Golden
Associate Secretary, General Board of Evangelism

The Christian Church is confronted with secularism, intense waves of crimes, devastating liquor traffic, and many social evils which are wrecking families and creating unwholesome environments and tragic influences for home life and young people. It is evident that every agency for human uplift and Christian living should be deeply concerned and actively engaged in meeting the challenge. We must serve the present age for the salvation of men and the glory of God.

No minister or local church can afford to fail God and His call to Advance for Christ and His Church. Every minister and layman should be fully committed to the task. The need is great, and the call to servce is *now*. The field is white unto the harvest and the laborers are few, but we can achieve.

We can achieve, first, by personal consecration and prayer, by demonstrating Christ's way of life in attitudes, conversation, and daily living. Then we can achieve by organization, workable plans, and by earnest and consistent cooperation in every phase and method of evangelism and service. To advance and bring in the Kingdom of God, we need to make available every method and use every member to help make Christ known, loved, and obeyed.

Our Means of Preparation

Our district superintendents, pastors and laymen are attending schools of evangelism, where a study is made of the various methods of evangelism, including surveys, enlisting prospects, selecting and training workers, as well as personal and visitation evangelism, and pulpit, public, family and correspondence evangelism. Our local church committees on membership and evangelism are being organized according to the 1948 *Discipline*. Thus far they are being used chiefly for promotion, cultivation and visitation, and in the follow-up of inactive members and reactivating non-resident members.

One encouraging phase in our Jurisdiction is the increased interest manifested in reading the Holy Bible and other religious literature. Prayer is a definite phase of our preparation in corporate and family worship and in developing the personal life. Church school superintendents and teachers are requested to co-operate and study the methods, and plan home visitations for the teachers that they may personally reach those that they teach and to win them to Christ and His Church, together with parents or other members of the family who may be without Christ.

Sermons are being preached on the Christian family, the basic unit in society, and on the moral and spiritual values of praying together. Christian living, the sacredness of marriage, fair play, righteous motives, and proper attitudes to all peoples are subjects of concern. In all our institutes, schools of evangelism, retreats, and local church conferences, consecration services are held.

Something in Progress

We are having our church doors open more often for some form of worship service, and this is accompanied by an increase in church and community activities. Some have already held local church revivals and preaching missions, visitation campaigns for new Christian disciples, increased family worship and Christian homes.

By the time this is published, many evengelistic campaigns will be in progress, city, district, and conference-wide. Several of our Conference Boards of Evangelism have plans to promote one or more special weeks during the year and, in some instances, once-a-month visitations, both in urban and rural communities, and to organize and make use of "Fisherman Clubs," "The Twelve," and other organizations. The Woman's Society of Christian Service is required definitely to co-operate in these visitations.

Many of our people have moved into new communities and are unchurched. Wherever we have a local membership, these people are to be visited and reactivated into the Church.

Our Spiritual Life

There is no greater need within the Church than that of a real spiritual awakening. One of our major objectives is that we will not only have a reformation, but a real transformation of life and a baptism of the Spirit, in the name of Christ whom we serve and worship in spirit and in truth. We must Advance for Christ and His Church through Evangelism.

National Visitation Week

Let every pastor and every charge have organized visitation evangelism four nights during National Visitation Week, March 20-25. At this time let pastors and leading evangelistic laymen, women and young people, visit for verdicts for Christ and the Church. Materials need to be ordered from Tidings at once on the order blank enclosed with this magazine.

School of Evangelism held by J. W. Golden at New Albany, Mississippi. Pastors, district superintendents, secretaries of evangelism and others of the Upper Mississippi Conference were present.

I consider *Shepherds* to be the most useful publication that comes to my desk, and study it from cover to cover.
***—James A. Andrews,* Pastor, Centenary Methodist Church, Modesto, California.**

"Evangelistic Committees Need Shepherds"

Bishop Roy H. Short has written E. J. Pendergrass, Conference Secretary of Evangelism of the Florida Conference, a great testimony concerning the value of SHEPHERDS to the Local Church Committee on Membership and Evangelism. It is as follows:

"I do hope the district secretaries are following through on the suggestion of trying to get SHEPHERDS in the hands of the various evangelistic committees. It would be a simple thing to do, but I am confident would do a world of good. I am thoroughly sold on this idea. Our evangelistic committees need SHEPHERDS just as the members of the W. S. C. S. need *The World Outlook* and *The Methodist Woman* and our school workers our church school literature."

To 169 Committee Chairmen

The Memphis Conference Board of Evangelism is sending SHEPHERDS to all the chairmen of the charge committees on membership and evangelism. Thus far it has secured 169 of their names and addresses, and all 169 began receiving this magazine with the February issue. We know of no better way that, dollar for dollar, will go farther to kindle the fires of evangelism in each local church throughout the year.

Wayne A. Lamb, the Conference Secretary of Evangelism, sent each of these chairmen a letter concerning the complimentary subscription, concerning using the magazine each month in the work of the local church, and suggesting that each chairman arrange that the local church provide each member of the committee on membership and evangelism with a year's subscription, beginning immediately.

These Pastors

The following pastors and churches are among those who are providing SHEPHERDS to each member of their committee on membership and evangelism:

George R. Sweeney, Greentown, Ohio (7)
W. Jeff Cunningham, First, Greenville, Miss. (19)
Robt. M. Brown, Bethany, Jersey City, N. J. (12)
Wayne A. Lamb, Union Avenue, Memphis, Tenn. (9)
Ferrell D. Jenkins, Saint Paul's, East St. Louis, Ill. (7)
Raymond W. O. Knowles, Garden City, Kansas (10)
Thomas D. Walker, Linden, New Jersey (7)
Alfred M. Brown, Crowley, Louisiana (8)

There are others, and their number is increasing fast. See the next few issues of SHEPHERDS.

SHEPHERDS

to Overseas Pastors and Missionaries

Beginning with the very first issue, SHEPHERDS has been sent to the Methodist missionaries overseas whose names and addresses have been furnished by the General Board of Missions and Church Extension. Many testimonies of appreciation for this magazine have been received from these missionaries, and SHEPHERDS acknowledges with appreciation a check recently received from the Board of Missions to help defray the expenses involved.

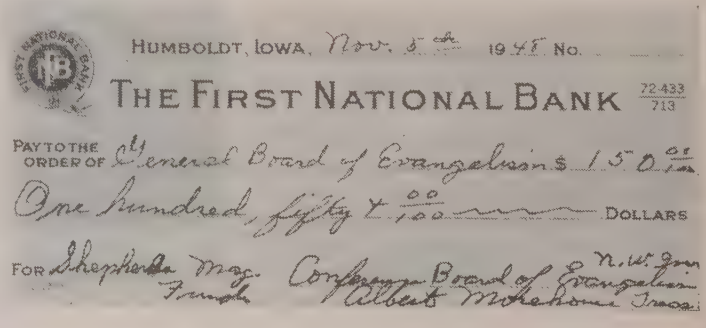
Almost from the beginning SHEPHERDS was besieged with requests from Sweden, Denmark, Argentina, the Philippine Islands, and other foreign countries for free subscriptions to their native pastors. In spite of the financial burden involved, effort has been made to oblige in every instance.

It is with pleasure that we now acknowledge the receipt of gifts to be applied to the sending of SHEPHERDS to these overseas pastors. These gifts are from four prominent laymen, as follows:

Kildow C. Lovejoy	$50.00
W. N. Banks	50.00
John W. Ehrstrom	50.00
T. H. B. Dunnegan	50.00

Furthermore, the reduced photograph of a check below bespeaks further appreciation of SHEPHERDS. It came without solicitation from a Conference Board of Evangelism which wanted to say "Thank you" in a substantial way, for sending SHEPHERDS each month to the pastors for this the third year now.

SHEPHERDS is grateful for these contributions and derives its keenest joy from realizing that it is appreciated, and that it is a helpful factor in evangelism "the greatest work in the world."


HUMBOLDT, IOWA, Nov. 5th 1945 No.
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK 72-433 713
PAY TO THE ORDER OF General Board of Evangelism $ 150 00/100
One Hundred, fifty & 00/100 DOLLARS
FOR Shepherds Mag. Fund Conference Board of Evangelism N.W. Iowa Albert Mohehouse Treas.

EVERY METHODIST

There is something that every Methodist can do for Christ and His Church during Lent. Every church school teacher can strive to lead every pupil in the class to Christ and the Church.

Every Christian parent can be responsible for helping his children to reach a Christian decision.

Every Christian husband or wife should feel duty bound to lead his or her mate to the Master.

There is not a person but can pray, if he will.

There is not a person but can speak a good word for the Master, and attempt in some way to lead another person to Christ.

"ONE-TO-WIN-ONE"

The Crawford Street Methodist Church recently organized a "One-To-Win-One Club." The members of this group are pledged to win some soul for Christ and church membership on or before Easter Sunday. The club is not large. A select few are in the club and they are doing their work conscientiously. The results from such effort will be good. The committee on Evangelism is promoting the club. J. P. Stafford, Jr., is the chairman of this committee. He is the son of the Conference Lay Leader. There is interest in the club even among those who have not joined.

—*W. A. Tyson,* Pastor, Vicksburg, Miss.

THE PASSION STORY

"The Passion Story—Day By Day," by Howard W. Ellis, is a picture booklet that individuals and churches might use with great success during Lent and during Holy Week. This booklet might be used in a number of ways:

1. It can serve as a series of Lenten studies of the Passion.
2. It might be used as a Good Friday outline for a Council of Churches.
3. It might serve as the principal item in the mailing of a church into every home. This would give much emphasis to the Church's message and program during the Lenten season.
4. It can be used as a basis of the devotional meditations and sermons on week-day nights of Holy Week—in fact, beginning on Palm Sunday night and continuing through Easter Sunday night.
5. Churches and pastors should order it at quantity prices, and have it available on a literature table every Sunday during Lent.

PLEASE CONSIDER

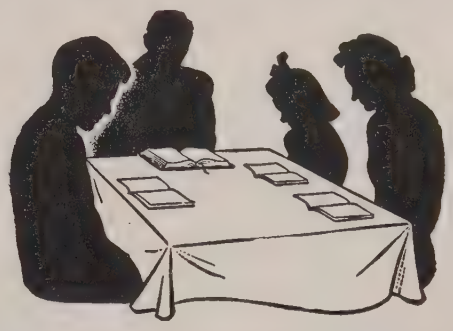
Have you seen "The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian"?

Have you read it?

Have you realized how fine it would be for every adult Methodist and youth Methodist to read this book during the Lenten season?

Have you realized that the single copy price of this 96-page book is only 35¢?

Have you realized that you can order (on a charge account) from 25 to 100 copies of this book at 25¢ each? You can sell these at 25¢, 30¢, or even 35¢ each. Besides doing a good thing by putting Christian literature into the homes of your people, you establish a revolving fund for your literature. You can pay this bill, and then order more books.



FAITH IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Our Church Observes Family Week

We are co-operating with the great program of the Church in making Family Week earn rich dividends for the coming years. Here are a few simple things that you can do:

1. Attend church as a family, and sit together in "a family pew."

2. Read helpful literature on the family, provided by the church and its organizations.

3. Listen to the good regular family radio programs and to special broadcasts like The Upper Room Family Week Series.

4. Develop some family recreation or hobby.

5. Establish daily family devotions, using a devotional guide. *The Upper Room* is suggested.

The Family That Prays Together Stays Together

—THE PASTOR

Above is the copy of a card (exact size, and printed in blue) available from TIDINGS for pastors and churches who have a real desire to make something of Family Week which is May 1-8. This card, carried into the homes the last week in April or the first week in May, in a friendly visitation, with *The Upper Room* and other Christian Family literature, can be the means of acquainting the entire membership and constituency with the program of the local church, and can win many friends for the church. (See Tidings Order Blank. 60¢ per 100)

Attendance Registration

☐ I am a member of this church.

☐ I am a member of _____ Church
Name of church

in _____, _____
City State

☐ I have no church affiliation.

☐ I would like to become a member of this church.

Name _____

Address _____

Use this card to register attendance on selected Sundays. Locate visitors and prospective members with it every Sunday.

New Upper Room
Radio Series
for
National Family Week
May 1-8, 1949

ALL GOOD THINGS BEGIN AT HOME

Living together in the family is preparation for living together in the world.

Home training is training for world participation.

Home builders are world builders.

"All Good Things Begin at Home" develops this theme in a way that makes it attractive and vital.

The Production Prospectus for this series has been prepared by the collaboration of the Radio Film Commission of The Methodist Church, The Department of Christian Family of the Board of Education, The Department of Adult Work and Family Education of the International Council of Religious Education, and the Protestant Radio Commission.

Home is where life begins. Personal attitudes are formed in the family circle. Our attitudes toward one another, the world, our possessions, God and the Church; the way we do things together, solve our problems, play, work, worship—all these begin at home.

You will marvel how so much can be included in these six 15-minute episodes.

The Six Episodes

ALL GOOD THINGS BEGIN AT HOME

1. Democracy Begins at Home
2. Question of the Family Car
3. High Finance on a Low Income
4. Home Builders Are World Builders
5. Families That Play Together Stay Together
6. Families That Worship Together Stay Together

Photo: Courtesy E. R. Squibb & Sons and the Board of Hospitals and Homes

National Family Week

National Family Week (May 1-8, 1949, inclusive) has adopted the theme "Home Builders Are World Builders" which is effectively dealt with in this series, "All Good Things Begin at Home."

Your church will want to do all it can to help establish Christian homes. Broadcasting this series during National Family Week will be a community ministry.

Each program contains a 60-second fade-back spot that permits you to provide copy of 120 words for your local station and situation.

ACT NOW!

Carlton E. Morse

Author - Producer of

ALL GOOD THINGS BEGIN AT HOME

Carlton E. Morse, author and producer of "All Good Things Begin at Home," is best known as the producer of "One Man's Family," a magnificent program on the air since 1932.

Carlton E. Morse also produced our series "So You Want to Stay Married" (broadcast on 543 stations) and "Families Need Parents" (broadcast on 1,121 stations).

Gifted writer, skilled producer, Mr. Morse knows how to interpret family life. This series is the best yet.

Loaned *Free* for Radio Broadcasting

See that these are broadcast in your community! ACT NOW!

1. Contact your radio station at once!
2. Secure the best possible time spot for the six episodes!
3. Reserve series on enclosed application form as soon as your radio station agrees to broadcast it. (This series will be sent on an audition acceptance basis.)

The Upper Room Radio
Harry L. Williams—Director
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 4, Tennessee

We plan to use the 1949 National Family Week series of six 15-minute transcriptions (sixteen-inch discs at 33 1/3 r.p.m.) ALL GOOD THINGS BEGIN AT HOME as checked below.

Check
Which

☐ Loaned free for radio broadcasting on sustaining time. Series must be returned.

☐ Outright Purchase—$15.00 per set

Send to: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Radio Station _____

Power _____ Frequency _____

Broadcast Schedule _____

Application by _____

Title _____

(Application Form)

Easter Service in Alaska

Easter Service at the Methodist church in Seward, Alaska

Wyburn Skidmore, pastor, seated behind pulpit

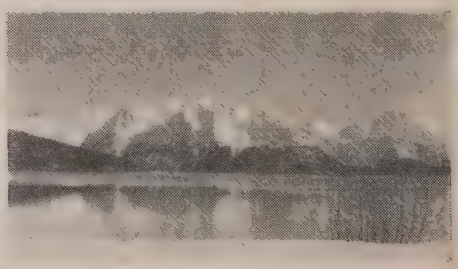
The pastor and his young people's Membership Training Class

Resurrection

By Wyburn Skidmore, Pastor
Ketchikan, Alaska

The Methodists of Seward, Alaska, are reminded continually of the fact of the Resurrection. In 1793 one of the Russian boats of Alexander Baranon sailed into the beautiful bay on the south of the Kenai Peninsula. It was Easter morning and the sailors were grateful for a safe journey across the open seas. So they named the place Resurrection Bay.

When the Americans moved in upon this magnificent spot in the latter part of the 19th century, they continued their scriptural title for the bay. But soon other parts of the terrain began to draw the same name, and so today the inhabitants of this beautiful harbor area have around them Resurrection Bay, Resurrection Mountain, Resurrection Creek, Resurrection River, and Resurrection Glacier. In like manner we Christians are resurrected from lives of sin into new life in Christ through faith in our resurrected living Lord. But even as the whole community of Seward has taken on the name of the Resurrection because of the entrance waters, so our Christian lives need to blossom forth with new resurrections in ever widening areas of life.



The Resurrection Bay, Seward, Alaska

Methodist Church and Parsonage, Ketchikan

Many times it would do our hearts good, if we knew the writers of *The Upper Room* meditations, and their situations. Wyburn Skidmore, a native of Ohio has held pastorates in Ohio and Pennsylvania, then at Seward, Alaska, and now is at Ketchikan. He is the Secretary of Evangelism for the Alaska Mission. In *The Upper Room* for April 18, he writes on the resurrection.

THE WORLD'S MOST WIDELY USED

The Upper Room

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Don't Run Out!

Be sure that you have sufficient copies of the March-April issue of The Upper Room on hand to meet all the special needs of the Lenten and Pre-Easter season. Your rush orders (Special Delivery and telegraph) will receive special handling. The Upper Room, 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

The Upper Room Pulpit

SERMONS

Ideas
Illustrations

Starters
Clinchers

Contents, March, 1949

SERMONS

Ceiling Unlimited — *Lloyd C. Wicke*

Beyond Despair — *G. Ray Jordan*

Upper Room Religion — *James W. Fifield, Jr.*

The Race Set Before Us — *William V. Gardner*

Making a Mockery of Sin — *William F. Dunkle, Jr.*

FEATURES

Not Found Wanting — *Joseph Szczepkowski*

I Heard a Preacher Say

The Set Face of Jesus

The Invisible Battlefield

The UPPER ROOM PULPIT

J. MANNING POTTS, *Editor*

Subscription Rates: $1.50, Foreign $2.00

Enclosed find $_____

Please begin my subscription to
The Upper Room Pulpit
with the March issue.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

To The Upper Room Pulpit
1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

Rush Order!

THE UPPER ROOM
1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee

Please send me: **Regular Edition**

_____copies THE UPPER ROOM for March and April
5 cents each in lots of ten or more

_____special Easter envelopes for remailing
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☐ Make this a standing order, same number each issue.

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_____copies Pocket Edition for March and April
5 cents each in lots of ten or more

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Name _____

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Devotional Literature

_____copies The Pocket Book of Faith, 35¢—3 for $1
_____copies A Pocket Prayer Book, 35¢—3 for $1
_____copies A Pocket Prayer Book (deluxe), 75¢ each
_____copies Discipline and Discovery, 35¢—3 for $1
_____copies Laws of the Spiritual Life, 35¢—3 for $1
_____copies Christian Nurture in the Home, 25¢—12 for $2.50
_____copies How to Conduct Family Worship, 15¢—8 for $1
_____copies Little Lessons in Spiritual Efficiency, 15¢—8 for $1
_____copies The Prayer School, 15¢—8 for $1
_____sets The Comfort Series (Six Booklets), 50¢
  _____When Sorrow Comes, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____Comfort Ye My People, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____The Christian and His Sorrows, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____Overcoming Discouragement, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____When Disappointment Comes, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____The Mystery of Pain, 10¢—12 for $1
_____The Upper Room Literature Rack (with Literature "face"), $15

_____sets The Prayer Series (Six Booklets), 50¢
  _____Is Prayer Intelligent? 10¢—12 for $1
  _____What Does Prayer Accomplish? 10¢—12 for $1
  _____How to Find Prayer More Meaningful, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____How Does God Guide Us? 10¢—12 for $1
  _____The Master's Guide to Prayer, 10¢—12 for $1
  _____Pray for Others, 10¢—12 for $1
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  _____The Spiritual Message of Acts, 15¢—8 copies $1
  _____The Spiritual Message of 1st Corinthians, 15¢—8 copies $1
_____The Marks of a Christian Home, 10¢—12 for $1
_____The Family Altar, 10¢—12 for $1
_____A Dwelling Place for God, 10¢—12 for $1
_____Assorted Tracts (Set of 100), 15¢
_____Assorted Greeting Cards (4 each of 6 cards), 25¢
_____Certificate of Home Dedications, 2¢ each in lots of 10

The Upper Room

1908 Grand Avenue

Nashville 4, Tennessee

Enclosed is $_____. Charge to My Account_____.

Please send the Devotional Literature indicated above to:

Name _____

Address _____

_____

☐ Send me information on the Parish Cultivation Plan

Plan NOW to Make Family Week (May 1-8) Effective in Your Church

A 5-point program of the Board of Evangelism for

Family Week Emphasis

1. FRIENDLY VISITATION. Under the direction of the Committee on Membership and Evangelism visit every home. These visits will emphasize the importance of the family as a worshipping unit and urge the establishment of family devotions as a regular habit in each home. Visitors leave a copy of THE UPPER ROOM and other helpful literature.

2. DEDICATION OF CHRISTIAN HOMES. The pastor calling in the homes may use the ritual provided in the *Discipline* to dedicate the home to Christian living. This is effective in all homes and especially urged for new homes and new families. An inexpensive certificate is available.

3. RADIO PROGRAMS. Your church can sponsor the broadcast of the new series Christian Family Week radio programs in your community. Arrange for publicity as to time and station of local broadcasts so that all your people may hear them.

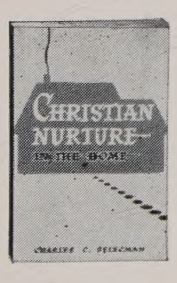
4. CHRISTIAN LITERATURE. Make sure that the best possible use is made of the special Christian family materials that are available through The Upper Room, Tidings, The Board of Education, The Woman's Society of Christian Service, and The Methodist Publishing House.

5. CO-OPERATE. Co-operate with the other boards and agencies of the Church in Church-wide promotion of Family Week.

Helpful Materials for Christian Family Week

Christian Nurture in the Home

Bishop Charles C. Selecman



This helpful book makes a strong case for the return of the home to its place of leadership and authority in the training of children in moral and spiritual life. Excellent for fathers and mothers of growing children. Inspiring. 54 pages. 25 cents per copy. 12 copies, $2.50.

The Christian Family Series

Three booklets written to help develop attitudes and give practical suggestions for those who seek to take advantage of the opportunities to make home and family of first importance. THE MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN HOME by Hazen G. Werner, A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD by Arthur W. Hewitt, THE FAMILY ALTAR by Roy H. Short, and others. 10 cents each; 12 for $1; 100 for $6.

DEDICATION OF A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

This attractive certificate-folder provides a permanent record of the dedication of the home to be signed by the pastor. In addition to the attractive certificate, there is the complete ritual for home dedication, as provided in the *Discipline,* and a page of suggestions for achieving a truly Christian family life. Price 2 cents each, in lots of ten or more.

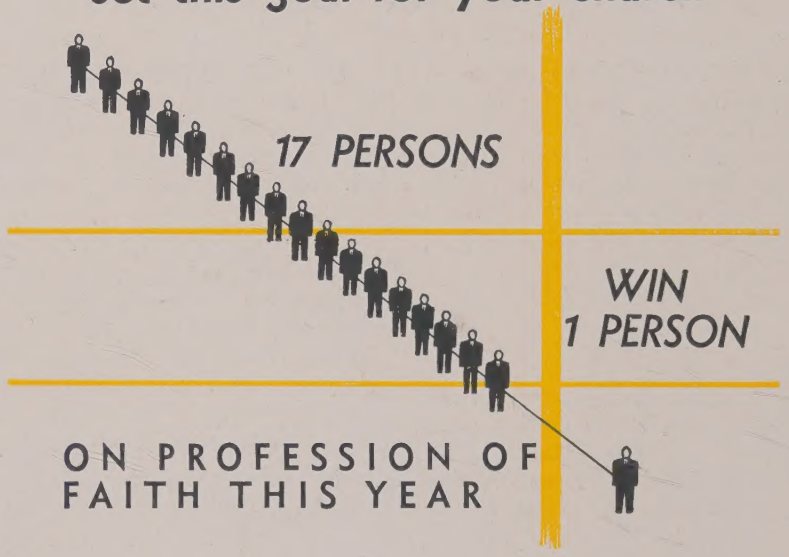
THE FAMILY AT WORSHIP—Four Simple Rules

By Roy H. Short

This four-page leaflet is designed for wide distribution. Here in brief compass are the four basic principles that can be followed by any family that wishes to have family worship. Ideal for distribution in connection with Family Week visitation. Price: package of 20, 25 cents; five packages, one dollar. No packages broken.

Order from **THE UPPER ROOM** 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

The General Conference set this goal for your church



When it said win 400,000 new persons to Christ and His Church this year

Visitation Evangelism Week---March 20-24

"1 for 17 by Easter"

Cover photo: H. Armstrong Roberts